PRAYER WITH THE HARP OF THE SPIRIT

THE PRAYER OF ASIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME III

THE CROWN OF THE YEAR -PART II

The Seven Weeks of the Fast of our Lord
and His Life-giving Passion
and the Night of His Resurrection

It is with gratitude for the unexpected recognition obtained by our prayer that this 3rd volume is offered to the reader. It all began with an award given by the Congregation for Oriental Churches, Rome. Soon after, the heads of the three Churches of India following the Antiochean liturgical tradition, Orthodox and Catholic, expressed their personal appreciation. Meanwhile a number of individual readers from the four quarters of the earth, places as far distant from us as USA and Japan, Italy and Germany, have encouraged this publication. Some from other religious families also, the Anglican Communion of Canterbury, the Orthodox of Mount Athos, Presbyterians of Meghalaya on the North Eastern frontier of India, friends at Shantiniketan of Tagore in Bengal, and closer to us the prestigious Auroville of Aurobindo Ashram in South India...*Thanks giving.*

The Great Fast This is a celebration of the Kingdom of God as revealed in the Gospel. The Sundays are known as Sundays of the Great Miracles, signs in the Johannine sense manifesting the divinity of Jesus and of His mission, and making present and active among His people the faith of those who experienced His divine power. While the fast of the Church is seen as a participation in the Lord's holy and life-giving fast, it calls the believer to enter with Him the unseen warfare. This is a call to repentance, conversion for entrance into the Kingdom of God, the new life....

The week of the Life-giving Passion and Resurrection of our Lord is at the heart of the life of the Church. The Syrian Churches have left some of their most beautiful poetical writings on them. The death of the Son of God at the hands of the sons on men and His Resurrection proclaiming His victory over Satan, death and sin, are the restoration of Adam and his children to their full participation in God's life... *Introduction*

ܟܬܒܐ ܕܝܠܝ

ܡܠܦܢܐ ܓܝܘܪܓܝ ܩܝܪܐܙ ܕܐܢܛܘܢ ܘܕܠܗ ܩܢܝܢܐ

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Anyone who asks for this volume, to read, collate, or copy from it, and who appropriates it to himself or herself, or cuts anything out of it, should realize that (s)he will have to give answer before God's awesome tribunal as if (s)he had robbed a sanctuary. Let such a person be held anathema and receive no forgiveness until the book is returned. So be it, Amen! And anyone who removes these anathemas, digitally or otherwise, shall himself receive them in double.

PRAYER
WITH THE HARP OF THE SPIRIT

The Prayer of Asian Churches

VOLUME III

The Crown of the Year - Part II

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR SUNDAYS
AND FEASTS IN THE SYRO-ANTIOCHEAN TRADITION

The Seven Weeks of the Fast of our Lord
and of His Life-giving Passion
and the Night of His Resurrection

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The Prayer of Asian Churches

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Translated from the original syriac of the Penquitho
of Mosul 1886-1896 Vol. IV-V.
An English Edition of the Divine Office
of the West Syrian Rite. First edition published in 1985 with an award
of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Rome.

Francis Acharya

SECOND REVISED EDITION
EASTER, 2009
KURISUMALA ASHRAM, VAGAMON 685 503, KERALA, INDIA

FROM THE FIRST EDITION

THANKSGIVING

The third volume of *Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit* should be introduced with a word of thanksgiving, the thanksgiving of the monastic community of Kurisumala for the recognition of our prayer by the Church. First the recognition of the Church of Rome which presides with love over the Oriental Catholic Churches, but also of the three Oriental Churches of India which use the liturgy of the Antiochean tradition, Orthodox and Catholic. It is with deep gratitude that we publish, at the beginning of this volume, the words of appreciation of their respective heads, as well as of two of our metropolitans.

While our first two volumes were offered with the special joy of sharing our prayer with a wider circle of readers, this did not happen without some apprehension. Most of us had not been brought up in the Syro-Antiochean tradition, nor was there any existing, living monastic tradition in which we could have inserted ourselves. A good deal of our life, especially our prayer life, had to be learnt from books. It is on account of this that we took up very earnestly the study of the original language, Syriac. Our first initiation came to us when we shared the prayer of a missionary religious community. When after coming to Kurisumala, in 1958, we were left to ourselves, we first secured permission from Rome to use the Book of Common Prayer in its Orthodox edition. Later we went in search of the Prayers for Sundays and Feasts, and obtained eight complete sets of the *Penquitho,* from Mosul in Iraq, where the seven volumes of the Crown of the Year had been published at the end of last century.

As a bi-lingual community, we celebrate part of the liturgy in Malayalam and the other part in English. We set therefore to the translation of the latter. We quickly came to learn that it was more than a question of making a good translation. Our prayer had to be adapted and renewed in the celebration itself. Now, to be a genuine and valid adaptation, the celebration should reflect the life of the community that celebrates. And this could not be done without taking some serious risks. In the years following Vatican II, besides shifting from Syriac to the vernacular languages, we had taken a very serious interest in the spiritual heritage of India, and more especially in the search for *seeds of the Word.*

The first publication of our community prayer reflecting this new opening appeared in 1980. While its celebration here had gained a unanimous, and often admirative approval, the publication of the text obtained only limited support. However our own metropolitan encouraged us to submit our work to the Roman Congregation for Oriental Churches. The first two volumes were thus sent to them for scrutiny. Meanwhile a number of reviews had appeared in theological journals, east and west. All of them were appreciative. Even the most sensitive feature, the inclusion of some twenty hymns of the Vedas, Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita in the Book of Common Prayer, was reviewed with appreciation. We could thus read in *Vidyajyoti,* Journal of Theological Reflection, published from Delhi, in 1981: "This is a beautiful example, in the field of liturgical prayer, of *aggiornamento* and adaptation to the Indian situation. It is faithful to its roots, yet not static. It opens up to the religious tradition of India, yet remains deeply Christian. It is Syrian in inspiration, yet universal in appeal..."

Regarding the Crown of the Year for which we adhered strictly to the structure of the services and to the letter of the text, doing away only with anti-semitic portions, and making our selection out of many optional pieces, we also had positive comments from professors of Oriental Theology and Liturgy, published in Orientalia Christiana Periodica of Rome, in 1983: "The criteria adopted in the selection of the texts indicate a deep familiarity with this liturgy and a clear vision of what suits the Indian reality... The selection of the Scriptural Readings is made with competence, also the choice of liturgical texts is representative... As regards the Ecclesiatical Year, the sacred and fascinating number seven was adopted so as to have seven seasons of seven Sundays... This decision taken by the translator is possible according to the genius of the Syrian Rite. The translation is generally very faithful."

It is with gratitude for this unexpected recognition from the Magisterium and from competent teachers, as well as from earnest readers already found in the four corners of the earth, in places as far distant from us as U.S.A. and Japan, Italy and Germany, some of them belonging to other religious families as Canterbury, and Mount Athos, and closer to us Auroville of Aurobindo Ashram, that this translation of the prayer of the Church, as it originated long ago in Asia and is still presently celebrated, is offered in thanksgiving to God, with gratitude to all who have encouraged us in this celebration, and in filial homage to saint Ephrem of Nisibis and his school of theologian poets who have left us a heritage of Christian prayer which recreates its devotees.

The Community of Kurisumala Ashram

Telegrams : DEVALOKAM

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THE ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

CATHOLICATE OF THE EAST

BASELIUS MARTHOMA MATHEWS I
CATHOLICOS OF
THE APOSTOLIC THRONE OF ST. THOMAS
AND
MALANKARA METROPOLITAN

CATHOLICATE PALACE
KOTTAYAM 686038
KERALA, INDIA

6-5-1985

To

Francis Acharya,
Kurisumala Ashram
Vagamon 685 503, Kottayam.

It is with great pleasure that this appreciation is written about the book "Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit" 'The Prayer of Asian Churches' Vol.iii 'The crown of the year' part iii. It is the English translation of the Syriac original, the Pengitho of Mosul translated for use in the Prayer Services of the Monastic Community of Kurisumala Ashram, where the Syrian Antiochene Tradition is followed.

The Translator has already published two other volumes, the first being the translation of Sh'imo and the second the translation of Vol.ii and iii of the Pengitho. The present volume which is the third in the series, is the translation of Vols. IV and V of the Pengitho. This contains prayers for the seven weeks of the Great Fast in memory of the forty days fast of Jesus Christ and His Holy and saving passion, culminating with His Holy Resurrection.

No one has hitherto ventured to undertake this herculean task of translating the Pengitho which consists according to the Mosul Publication (1886-1896) of seven volumes, comprising altogether 4000 pages in folio. Credit be given to the translator for his immense patience and hard labour for the translation of these volumes. He has already convered five volumes of the original Syriac Pengitho. May God give him the health and the strength to finish the whole.

The books already published namely Vol. I and II have been very well received as outstanding contributions to Christian ecclesiastical literature.

The mystical and pneumatical aspects of the prayers containing the gems of oriental piety and spirituality which originated and grew up in the cradle of the Christian East will Kindle in the hearts of the votaries the fire of the Holy Spirit and elevate their minds to the heavenly spheres, to the throne of God which should always be the end and aim of our prayers.

With all blessings and Good wishes.

Baselius Marthoma Mathews I
Catholicos of the East and
Malankara Metropolitan

THE MALANKARA JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

(UNDER THE HOLY APOSTOLIC SEE OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST)

BASELIOS POULOSE II
CATHOLICOSE OF THE EAST

CATHOLICATE ARAMANA
MUVATTUPUZHA 686661
KERALA

11. 3. '85

Rev. Francis Acharya,
Kurisumala Ashram,
Vagaman.

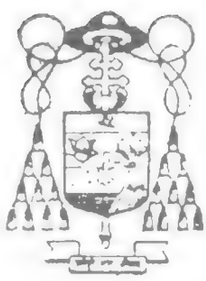
Beloved Acharya,

I am writing this in acknowledgement of the English version of the prayer book Vol.III. I thank you most sincerely for this very noble effort, with all appreciation. May God bless you and enable you to achieve more in this field, so that these precious gems be brought to light to the benefit of the common man. I am advising the seminary students to purchase this book and get enriched thereby.

With love & prayers,

Baselius Poulose II
Catholicose of the East.

MOST REV. BENEDICT MAR GREGORIOS,
O. L. C., M. A., D. D.,
ARCHBISHOP OF TRIVANDRUM.



Tel. 67642 & 67843

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
TRIVANDRUM - 695004
KERALA, INDIA

April 22, 1985.

By making available to the widest possible circle the inestimable treasures of the Syro-Antiochean Liturgy, Rev. Acharya Francis has placed all of us under a deep debt of gratitude. For the Acharya this has been a labour of love extending over a long period of time.

The present one is the third volume of THE PRAYER WITH THE HARP OF THE SPIRIT. It comprises the spiritual preparation as well as the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the core of Christian life and prayer.

A deep sense of humility before the Majesty of God and a profound spirit of repentence before the All-Holy, pervade the entire Antiochean Liturgy. This is specially true of the prayers of the Holy Season of the Fast of Our Lord and of His Saving Passion. The first Sunday recalls "the first of the signs given by Jesus" (St. John 1/11) - the changing of water into wine, symbolising 'the passage from evil to good, the creation of a new heart and a new steadfast spirit.' The following five Sundays recall the miraculous healing of the sick symbolising the healing of the spirit through repentence and absolute confidence in the Saviour. The prayers are vibrant with sincere penitence and reconciliation with God and fellowmen.

The last Sunday commemorates the triumphant entry into Jerusalem manifesting that Jesus is perfect Master and that "the Prince of this World has no power over Him, and that He loves the Father and is doing exactly what the Father told Him" (cfr. John 14/30 & 31). The last week celebrates the Supreme Sacrifice through which Jesus "who had always loved those who were in the world, now showed how perfect his love was" (cfr. John 13/1).

I earnestly wish and pray that this present volume may help all to enter more intimately into the great Mystery of our Salvation.

+ Benedict Mar Gregorios

Archbishop of Trivandrum.

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MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

EPARCHY OF TIRUVALLA

ISAAC MAR YOUHANON
BISHOP

CATHOLIC BISHOP'S HOUSE
MARYGIRI, P. B. No. 4
TIRUVALLA - 689 101
KERALA STATE, INDIA

Prot. N.

28th March, 1985

Very Rev. Francis Acharya,
Kurisumala Ashram,
Vagamon P.O.,
Kottayam Dt. 685 503

Dear & Very Rev. Francis Acharya,

I thank you very much for your kind letter dated 23.2.1985 and for sending me a copy of the Volume III of "Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit"(The seven weeks of the Fast of our Lord and His Saving Passion). I was anxiously waiting for the publication of the present volume and hope that the next volumes will be published soon.

I appreciate your work very much and I congratulate you on the publication of the present volume. You have undertaken a great task in translating the "Penquito" into English and in publishing it so that the hidden treasures of the Syrian Church may be known to the Universal Church. I am sure that the present volume and as well as the previous two volumes will enrich the clergy and faithful of our Church. May the Lord reward your efforts and bless you abundantly.

Wishing you and the community of the Kurisumala Ashram the joy and peace of Easter, I remain,

Yours in Our Lord,

+ Mar Yoohanon

Bishop of Tiruvalla

Phone. 7

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WYNAD DISTRICT
KERALA STATE
INDIA

TRUST IN LOVE

CYRIL MAR BASELIOS
BISHOP OF BATTERY

27th March 1985.

Very Rev. Fr. Francis Acharya
Kurusumala Ashram
Vagamon, Kottayam Dt.
Kerala, India.

Dear and Rev. Father,

I am extremely happy to know that the other volumes of our prayer-book are getting ready for publication especially the prayers of the Great Fast and those of the Holy week of the life-giving passion of our Lord. You know how the first volumes-published earlier-were received and appreciated by several christian communities in India and abroad. In going through these works I am really struck with the excellent scholarship you have shown and the attentive care you have taken to render the texts in their original style and purity without weakening their meaning. Only an experienced Acharya and Guru can undertake a task of this sort. And this in fact is the merit and gain of this translation. I am writing these lines, not only to appreciate these liturgical prayer-books but also to thank you for the great service you have done to the churches of the Antiochene tradition and the Universal church.

My feelings of joy and satisfaction abound even on another score. Let me state that your laborious work of translating these prayer-books is a timely contribution to the efforts of the church in deepening Christian Faith among the People of God. You know that our Faith-life is strengthened much more by its celebration than by its conceptualisation. A faith celebrated is much more rooted in our life than a faith conceptualised. This is all the more confirmed in our days when we are facing the tragic results of categorising our Faith-life and rationaling our God-experience. A faith-life that is consistently shaped in the crucible of the celebration of divine Mysteries and experienced in the communion of ecclesial life can hardly be substituted with the fleeting waves of changing philosophies. The God-experience that is rooted in such a deep Faith-life is today the most imperative need of Christian communities. Hence the provision of prayer books that help celebrating the divine Mysteries revealed in the economy of salvation effected in the Mystery of Our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the invaluable contributions to the mission of the church to-day. Your work will always be rememcmbered with admiration and praised as unique. We have reason to thank you most sincerely and praise God for having given you the wisdom and strength to complete this monumental task for the Glory of God and the benefit of His people. God bless you always!

With every good wish,

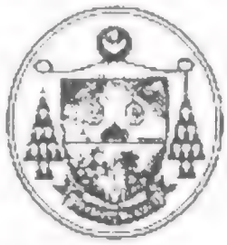
Yours devotedly in Our Lord,

+ Mar Baselios

Most Rev. Cyril Mar Baselios,
Bishop of Bathery.

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH
MAJOR ARCHDIOCESE OF TRIVANDRUM

MORAN MOR BASELIOS CLEEMIS
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP-CATHOLICOS OF
THE MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH &
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF TRIVANDRUM



THIRUVANNURELI
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
PATTOM, TRIVANDRUM-695 004
KERALA, INDIA

19th February, 2009

Rt. Rev. Abbot Yesudas Thelliyil O.C.S.O.
Kurisumala Ashram
Vagamon P.O.
Kottayam 685 503

Dear and Very Rev. Fr. Yesudas,

I am very pleased to know that a new edition of Vol. III of PRAYER WITH THE HARP OF THE SPIRIT containing prayers for the Great Feasts and Life-Giving Passion of our Lord is being published. I congratulate you wholeheartedly for the vision displayed and pains undertaken in your effort at the preservation and propagation of this Magnum Opus of Very Rev. Fr. Francis Acharya of Venerable Memory who so painstakingly translated these prayers from the original Syriac Penquitho. The profundity of faith and the quality of dedication reflected by our dear Acharya in this respect must inspire all of us.

As many eminent liturgists testify, the West Syrian liturgy celebrated in the Malankara Catholic Church is the most ancient and one of the most beautiful liturgical traditions in the Church. Its biblical foundation and the sense of the Glory of God and a deep feeling of repentance that this liturgy evokes are characteristics specific to this liturgy. Its ability to elevate the hearts of the faithful and to lead them to serious contemplation of the Divine Mysteries makes this liturgy especially relevant today, when the sense of the Divine is being overrun by materialistic interests and worldly pursuits.

I wish this book every success and wide readership and invoke God's choicest blessings on all those who have contributed their time, toil and resources to its realization.

Yours lovingly in Our Lord,

+ Baselios Cleemis

+ Baselios Cleemis Catholicos
Major Archbishop of the Malankara Catholic Church and of Trivandrum.

MORAN MOR BASELIOS CLEEMIS CATHOLICOS
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Dr. Thomas Mar Koorilos
Metropolitan Archbishop

ARCHDIOCESE OF TIRUVALLA

1st December 2008

Very Rev. Abbot Yesudas Thelliyil
Kurisumala Ashram
Vagamon

Dear Abbot Yesudas,

I am very pleased to know that you are going to release the second edition of the "Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit" Vol. 3.

The Liturgy, in fact, unites us to Christ, whether by means of the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, or by the prayers of each day and the feasts which are spread out over the year and which have as their single purpose to make real for us the Mysteries of the Son of God made Man and to obtain for us the grace of the Holy Spirit who effects in us the divine likeness.

This endeavour will enrich the faithful to adhere towards the venerable tradition of the church. I appreciate and congratulate all of you for your great fervor and zeal you have for the Church. Indeed, we are proud of you and your commitment to the venerable traditions of the Malankara Catholic Church. I place on record all your contributions to the Malankara Catholic Church.

May the Lord continue to bless you and protect you. I assure you of my prayers and wish you all success on your noble efforts.

Yours in our Lord,

✠Thomas Mar Koorilos
Metropolitan Archbishop of Tiruvalla

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CONTENTS

PAGE

Thanksgiving, by the Community of Kurisumala Ashram.....IV
Letter of **H. H.** Baselius Marthoma Mathews 1.....VI
letter of **H. H.** Baselius Poulose 11.....VII
Letter of **H. G.** Benedict Mar Gregorios.....VIII
Letter of **H.E.** Isaac Mar Youhanon.....IX
Letter of **H. E.** Cyril Mar Baselius.....X
Letter of **H. B.** Baselius Mar Cleemis.....XI
Letter of **H. G.** Thomas Mar Koorilos.....XII

INTRODUCTION

The Third Volume XV
The Forty Days of the Fast of our Lord Jesus Christ.....XV
The Week of His Passion and the Night of His Resurrection.....XXV
The Annunciation to the Mother of God.....XXXVII

THE PRAYER SERVICES

The Common Prayers.....1
The Common Evening Prayers.....3
The Common Prayers for the Night Vigil.....9

First Sunday of the Great Fast, Sunday of Cana.....27
First Monday.....41
First Tuesday.....55
First Wednesday.....67
First Thursday.....79
First Friday.....92
First Saturday, The Holy Fathers Ephrem and Theodore.....105

Second Sunday, Sunday of the Leper.....118
Second Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.....128
Second Saturday, The Holy Fathers Ephrem and Isaac.....137

Third Sunday, Sunday of the Paralytic....147
Third Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday....159
Third Saturday, The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste....168
Fourth Sunday, Sunday of the Canaanite Woman....180
Fourth Monday, Tuesday....192
Fourth Wednesday, The Middle of the Fast....196
Fourth Thursday....212
Fourth Friday....224
Fourth Saturday, Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary....237

Fifth Sunday, Sunday of the Bent Woman....249
Fifth Monday....261
Fifth Tuesday....274
Fifth Wednesday, Thursday, Friday....286
Fifth Saturday, All the Saints and the Monastic Fathers....293

Sixth Sunday, Sunday of the Man Born Blind....305
Sixth Monday....317
Sixth Tuesday....322
Sixth Wednesday....326
Sixth Thursday....330
Sixth Friday, Fortieth Day, the End of the Fast....334
Sixth Saturday, The Raising of Lazarus....342

Sunday of Hosannah....360

Monday in the Week of the Life-giving Passion....378
Tuesday in the Week of the Life-giving Passion....429
Wednesday of the Conspiracies....448
Thursday of the Great Passover....466
The Great Friday of the Crucifixion....512
Saturday of the Good Tidings....565
The Night of the Resurrection....616

March 25 The Annunciation to the Mother of God....632

NOTES TO THE INTRODUCTION....647
NOTES TO THE PRAYER SERVICES....648
GLOSSARY....649

INTRODUCTION

With this new volume of *Prayer with the harp of the Spirit* - the second of the Crown of the year - we touch upon the heart of the Christian Mystery, we reach the secret place, the *guha,* where neither depth- psychology nor bio- technology, neither nuclear missiles nor spaceships can enter. This is the little space in the cave of the heart of the Creation, where the Uniquely-Beloved Son, God the Word, in His human form is put to death by His fellow humans, rises on the third day and gives new life to the universe, the new creation. Such is the Great Mystery celebrated, the Eternal Child, with the Father from all eternity, has become flesh at Bethlehem. Some thirty years later, at His Baptism in the river Jordan, the great theophany of the Holy Trinity, He has become the Firstborn of water and the Spirit.

The Third Volume

In the present book, the celebration of the Economy of Salvation takes us to a further and decisive stage: the Great Fast of our Lord in the desert with the ensuing Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, sealed by the Great Passover of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. We have here the vital nucleus of the celebration of the Economy of Salvation of which the Passover: the Thursday of the Mysteries, Friday of the Passion and Death, Saturday of the Good Tiding with the Descent into Sheol, and the first Proclamation of the Resurrection constitute the Great Mystery. This is the deepest insertion of the Divine Reality into human history, the most baffling manifestation, ever, of the power of God and of His involvement with His creation. The Great Mystery is preceded by the seven weeks of the Fast of our Lord with His proclamation of the Kingdom and the days of the Life-giving Passion, and culminates in the night of the Resurrection.

The Fast of our Lord Jesus Christ

After the seasons of the Annunciation at Nazareth, and of the Nativity of our Lord at Bethlehem, and of his Baptism and Epiphany at the river Jordan, the Church pursues her celebration of the Economy of Salvation with the Fast of our Lord in the desert of Judah, and of His Life-giving

Passion at Jerusalem. The Churches have for long celebrated this Fast as a high water mark of their life in the course of one year. In a sense it is the most important season of the year, as the touchstone of the believer's faith, and of the sincerity of the commitment to the Lord and to the Kingdom. In the Catholic edition of the *Penqitho* the six weeks of the Fast - the seventh week is that of the Life-giving Passion - make the biggest of the seven volumes, nearly 1000 pages. In the Orthodox edition, it takes in full, one of the 3 volumes. The Great Fast is the Church's season of renewal as part of the celebration of the to Paschal Mystery, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Son of God for the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost.

Fasting is of course one of its conspicuous features. But the season is much more than *a forty days fast.* In reality it is a celebration of the Kingdom of God, as revealed in the Gospels. Its appropriate dispositions are reflected in the accounts of conversions and calls made by Jesus, in the Charter of the Kingdom revealed in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount, in the parables and in the healing and other miracles. All these provide the fabric and texture of the six weeks celebration, in repentance-*metanoia*, vigilance and watchfulness, true worship and social concern experienced in true prayer and sharing with the needy, as the All- compassionate and Healer of all ills does. For it is He who animates the whole celebration of the Church, He prompts us by His own fast, His prayer, His momentous encounter with the Evil One in the desert where He had been led by the Holy Spirit for the unseen warfare. Finally, it is the revelation of His love for humankind manifested in an unprecedented manner in His works of compassion and His miracles, He did this to make what the Prophet Isaiah had said, come true, "He Himself took our sickness away and carried our diseases for us." [1]

The Days of the Week

Monday to Thursday. While the Fast of the Church is seen as a participation in the Lord's Holy and Life-giving Fast, a sharing in His own life, He who is the Holy Fruit and Tree of life, it calls the believer to enter with Him the unseen warfare. This is the call to repentance, conversion for entrance into the Kingdom of God, the new life, beautifully impressed on us in the daily Service of Repentance and Concluding Intercessions, at the end of the Night Vigil.

"Praise to the Holy One and Giver of Holiness and Fount of all Gentleness, who was made like us in all things except for sin. By His Holy Fast He cast down the Enemy of our race, and by His great labours He trod for us the way of repentance and of the entrance to the Kingdom...

We adore you, Christ our God, because of Your love for us. By Your Holy and Life-giving Fast, You make to pass away from us the greediness which caused the transgression of the command in Paradise at the beginning, and You annul for us the sentence of death pronounced against us. By Your holy body You heal the infectious wounds which harm our bodies.

You are for us the source of life, that which gives life to the whole Creation and is full of good things... We offer thanks to You because You make us partake of you, the Holy Fruit and the Tree of Life. And as we take our pleasure in You, we trample underfoot the sinful passions and the allurements of the evil spirit. We offer You therefore our bodies as a sacrifice without deceit and our souls as an acceptable offering. Make our minds rise to You as a pure incense and may our conversation be like a sweet perfume, and our silence and our meditation like a spiritual scent.

For all this we beseech You, cleanse us from every stain of sin that we may partake of Your Adorable and Life-giving Mysteries, and come to Your Holy Passover with joy..."[2]

Fridays. While on Fridays the Church celebrates the same Mystery of the Fast, she is more especially concerned with the Cross, symbol of Christ's Passion but also of His victory over Evil. This is seen in the light of the creation and of man's fall, and his restoration to the place from which he had fallen:

"Glory to Him who made us in His image, icons of His greatness.
He saved us from the Evil One by His Passion and Crucifixion
and gave us a victorious armour, the Holy and Life-giving Cross.
...To You be glory, Jesus, who saved us by Your Cross..."[3]

Saturdays. are set apart for the commemoration of the saints whose lives and works illustrate the Mysteries of the Kingdom in their own particular way. Yet this is not a narrowing down of the Church's meditation all - embracing celebration, a celebration ecumenical and even inter-religious, as we like to

say today, and this long before the Second Vatican Council re-awakened Catholic consciousness to the all - pervading presence of Christ in all believers, and to the working of His Spirit in all the human family, all over the planet earth. On such a Saturday the church prays:

> "When we bring before Your love of humankind the remembrance of the glorious and sublime deeds of those who were pleasing to You from the origins of our race, the first Adam, up to our own days, who were blameless and attained the highest awareness of You, and were found worthy to become Your friends, intimate friends, we remember first the holy fathers of the first ages who lived under the Cosmic Covenant and kept Your law without having been instructed in it. We remember the assembly of the prophets and of those who were initiated into the Mysteries of Your truth, who saw You with the eye of the spirit and prophesied in truth concerning You. They had a longing to see the day of Your birth but did not reach it. We remember the company of the apostles who were of Your own house...evangelists..."[4]

The *rishis* of India and all the sages of the human family have thus their place in this commemoration, all those who turned away from the unreal to the Real, who walked out of the darkness into the light of immortal life.

First Saturday	Ephrem the Teacher and Theodore the Martyr.
Second Saturday	Ephrem and Isaac, the Great Teachers of Prayer.
Third Saturday	The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste.
Fourth Saturday	Joseph the Just, Spouse of the Virgin Mary.
Fifth Saturday	All Saints and the Monastic Fathers.
Sixth Saturday	The Raising of Lazarus, prefiguration of the Lord's victory over Death and Sheol, on the eve of Hosanna.

Sundays. The Sundays of the Great Fast are known as the Sundays of the great miracles, signs in the Johannine sense which make manifest the Divinity of Jesus and of His mission, and make present and active among His people the faith of those who experienced His divine power.

> "Jesus our God, Maker of the world and Fashioner of all creatures, Word without beginning... You appeared among men as a man, but as God You threw them in amazement by Your wonders. As the bridegroom was short of earthly goods, in Your wealth, O Heavenly Bridegroom, You saved his good name. The guests united to praise You and to make known Your wonders. Your Mother rejoiced because

her request was fulfilled. Your glory was manifested and Your disciples believed in You."[5]

First Sunday	Jesus changes water into wine at the wedding feast.
Second Sunday	Jesus heals a leper.
Third Sunday	Jesus heals the paralyzed man.
Fourth Sunday	Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman.
Fifth Sunday	Jesus heals the bent woman.
Sixth Sunday	Jesus heals the man born blind.

While contemplating the mighty deeds and wonders which the Lifegiver did for us, His compassion and boundless love are made present to us and among us. Our faith in His power to heal the hidden diseases of the human heart brought about by the passions that lead to sin, is quickened and the Mystery of the Great Fast is fulfilled in us:

> "We beg of You, our Lord, in Your graciousness, heal our diseases, both concealed and manifest. By your divine knowledge give light to the blindness of our minds. Strengthen and paralysis of our souls as well as of our bodies and make them firm. Forgive our offences and sins. Drive away the attacks of the Enemy from our midst and fill us with faith, hope and love. Make us worthy to complete the unseen warfare of the Holy Fast in purity and holiness so that we may come to the Holy Passover and to the Glorious Resurrection...."[6]

The Hours of the Day and the Night

We have to restrict ourselves here to the two main services celebrated by our community: the *Evening Prayer* and the *Night Vigil.*[7]

The Evening Prayer

After the *Lighting of the Lamp,* the Opening Prayer evokes the main themes of the season: fast and prayer, ultimately for peace. This is done in a world perspective, calling God's blessings on His people and on all nations, "That all may seek God and find Him, in this holy season and in all seasons..."

There follows a brief *Service of Adoration:* on ferial days a triple prostration on the knees with face on the ground, and on Sundays and Feasts, a triple bow while chanting each time:

> "Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
> Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker."

The *Evening Psalms* are preceeded by a *Psalm of the day*, as on festive celebrations, with its *Responses*, ardent prayers in which merge earnest supplication and joyous thanksgiving, for which the two Testaments are called to witness:

"O Lord, let all who seek refuge in You rejoice.....
Give shelter to those who love Your Name,
that they may ever exult in You.

Those who have come through the great ordeal,
He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them.
The Lamb will lead them to springs of water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."[8]

A remarkable and rather unexpected feature of the *Prayers, Hymns and Supplication Songs*, is the place they make, besides the common lenten themes, to the remembrance of God's tender love and the contemplation of the beauty of His creation, resulting in a transformation and even a transfiguration of the believer:

"We are celebrating the Great Fast of our Saviour,
let us share in it with love and dignity,
that we may be enriched by its treasures
and like the noble ones of old be made resplendent by it."[9]

This alludes to Moses of whom it is narrated in the Book of Exodus that after he stayed with the Lord on Mount Sinai, fasting for forty days and forty nights, eating and drinking nothing, the skin of his face was radiant, reflecting God's glory, so much so that Aaron and the people could not come near to him. On the other hand the beauty of the Creation itself gives glory to Him who made everything good:

"On the third day of creation God made the dry land appear,
the sea and the dry land were given their boundaries.
Soon the earth was in travail and brought forth
plants bearing seeds, and flowers and fruit trees.

On the third day of Bride Earth bathed in the deep waters
and coming out of the water she clothed herself beautifully
with the linen garments of blossoms full of wonder.
On this day, as in the third month, flowers and lilies blossom.

On this day all flowers of the spring offer praise,
seeds from seed-bearing plants and also fruits.
The trees and fruits from the valleys and from the uplands
give glory to Him who made everything good".[10]

But the most outstanding and quite unique feature of the Evening Prayer in this season is the Proclamation of the Word of God which makes up the second half of the Service. This is itself a celebration of the Economy of Salvation which goes back to the days when no Qurbana was celebrated on the days of fast. It constitutes indeed a Eucharist of the Word. The first two reading are taken from the Old Testament: Genesis, almost chapter by chapter, and the Sapiential Books: Sirach, Job, Proverbs, Wisdom and Qoheleth. These are followed by two - sometimes three - readings of the New Testament: the Catholic Epistles, James, Peter and John, some chapters from Saint Paul's letters to the Romans and the Hebrews, and every day, an appropriate Gospel, followed by the Common Concluding Prayer and Meditation.

The Night Vigil

Though the night vigil preserves its traditional structure of three watches of vigil, the contents are changed, they are centered exclusively on the mysteries of the season, there are no watches for the Mother of God or for the Saints. The Prayer thus obtains a special meaningfulness and intensity which appears already in the

Opening Prayer:

"Make us worthy, Lord our God, to stand before Your Majesty in purity, to keep vigil in all wakefulness, meditating on Your graciousness, to knock at the door of Your dwelling place and to persevere in prayer."[11]

The *Night Psalms* have a *Response* proper to each day. The *First Three Watches* celebrate the mystery of the season, especially repentance, which is the motive of all *Eucharistic Prayers,* but also watchfulness in prayer. Much biblical imagery is used; especially the Gospel, but the prayer also takes on moving personal accents and often in a very elevated mood:

"O Sinner, have pity on your soul so full of beauty.
It is by your own will that it remains entangled in evil passions.
It is not thieves or robbers that strip you of the divine image,
but you who allow it to be sullied by your evil desires.

Rise up now as the prodigal son and seek so as to find.
Even now the Creator expects to find His image in You.
The Son of God redeemed it for a great price,
the costly sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb without blemish.

Son of God, who redeemed Your image with Your own blood,
restore now in us its divine beauty, that You may rejoice
in Your Churches, as in the creation, at the beginning,
and they will sing praise to You, Lord, with the spiritual beings."[12]

On Fridays it is the Cross and the Passion that are recalled, often in relation to the fall in Paradise and with a cosmic dimension:

"He was stretched like a pillar from the depths to the heights.
The Mighty One who bears the burden of the world was hanged.
When their Lord breathed His last with a loud voice,
the sun and the moon terror-stricken were obscured
and there was darkness all over the world.

The sun said, "How can I enlighten the Creation,
when the Sun of Righteousness in on the Cross?"
Also the day which poured its light upon His face
saw the Lord condemned and hanging between the thieves."[13]

At the *Fourth Watch* the *Service of the Communion of Saints* is not celebrated. Its place is taken by the *Service of Repentance* which however, follows the *Cosmic Praise*. This service which is celebrated daily throughput the Great Fast - except on Sundays and feasts - gives the key note of the season. Its Eucharistic Prayer has already been quoted at length in our section on the Days of the Week, but the Service has very meaningful hymns proper to the First Half, the Middle of the Fast and the Second Half:

First Half of the Fast.

Coming He comes with joy.
The Fast of our Lord has come.
Brothers, let us receive it worthily.
Let us take it up sincerely
and labour in it zealously with all purity,
that we may obtain a true conversion
and find our way to the Kingdom which does not pass away.

Fourth Wednesday which is the Middle of the Fast.
In the Middle of the Holy Fast
let Your name be blessed and praised,
who in the middle of the earth
made our salvation by the crucifixion.
In the middle of the Church praise for ever to You, Christ the King.
In the Middle of the Fast it is right to worship Your Cross
in which is hope and salvation for all who were lost.

Second Half of the Fast.

We will praise You in the Middle of the Assembly.
The days of the Fast are half through
and the passover of our Lord is approaching....
Come, brothers, let us not relent in our fast, let us be diligent.[14]

The Service of Repentance concludes with a unique feature at the Night Vigil, solemn *Prayers of Intercession,* some deeply personal, some world-oriented while the cosmic dimension is never absent.

"Christ our God who by your Holy Fast strengthen us to shake off all sluggishness, and to set our minds on the things of the Spirit, make us to be renewed unceasingly by the Spirit who led You into the unseen warfare, we beseech You...

Christ our God who after fashioning heaven and earth created Adam on the sixth day and set him as head over all that is on earth, make us all work with You for the removal of evil, through the creation of communities of ordered and simple life all over the world, we beseech You...

Christ our God who were crucified for the race of Adam, and thus crucified death and sin and slew the great dragon by Your Cross, make us to rise from our enslavement to sin, and take part with You in the risen life, we beseech You..."[15]

Supplication and intercession are particularly suited for the season of the Great Fast yet they blossom almost irresistibly into praise and thanksgiving, as this Supplication Song of the Night Vigil on the first Monday:

"Though our wretchedness is not worthy to praise You
who created us in Your graciousness, we dare say.
It is not a small thing that Your compassion did for us.
In Your graciousness You created us.
In Your graciousness You saved us.
In Your graciousness You showed compassion on us.
In Your graciousness You have pity on us.
We then sing praise to You, our Lord,
and to Your Father and to the Holy spirit."[16]

The celebration of the Fast of our Lord comes to its conclusion on the fortieth day, the sixth Friday, which, like the fourth Wednesday, the Middle of the Fast, is kept as a feastday on which the Church praises Him for the blessings of the celebration and looks forward with renewed faith, hope and love to the week of the Life-giving Passion, the Passover and the Resurrection:

"Today is the end of the Fast, and the Passion of Christ is near.
Blessed are those who pleased Him by fasting
and who carry spiritual gifts for the day of the Resurrection.
They will receive their reward with those who loved Him.

We give thanks to Jesus, the Victorious King, for His goodness
and for His victory over the Evil One, for His humilitation
and His recovering of strength by His Holy Fast,
for His being crushed for the sake of the believers.
Behold, they sing praise and offer thanksgiving to Him.

He who is Life and Fullness suffered hunger
while lending a loving hand to the weak.
At the end of forty days He felt weak and weary,
as He willed, while He is the Strength of His Father
and everything has its existence in Him, as it is written. Praise
to Him who humbled Himself for the sake of weak Adam.[17]

Behold, the ship of the Fast is reaching its destination,
the True Pilot sails into harbour full of peace.
The strenousness of the Fast is over and we who are weary
may care little for rejoicing in Your righteousness, Lord.
Let Your grace be with us, that our faults may not multiply
and our weakness not be put to shame".[18]

From this brief survey of the prayers, the Great Fast emerges beautifully as the Church's celebration of our Fast of our Lord. She herself experiences its sacramental efficacy. This happens in the intensity of her prayer, especially supplication arising from a deep sense of man's sinfulness, or intercession offered in the awareness of God's radical goodness and boundless love. Caught in this experience, the believer's fast becomes a labour of love by which he is truly renewed. The Church continues to pray that at the end of the Fast its grace may remain with him. But he has obtained wings, the wings of devotion with discernment, great desire and instant prayer, and he looks forward with confidence and joy to the Passover and the Resurrection:

"Love prompts me to recount simply
why the Saviour of the whole creation fasted.
The Mighty One whose glory fills heaven and earth
fasted for forty days enduring pain in the flesh.

God saw His noble image worn out by sin
and He sent His Son to save His image by fasting. The Son
descended and took a human body from a daughter of David
and with it fasted and defeated the Enemy who fights againts us.

Adam fell on account of greediness, tempted by the tree in Eden.
Our Saviour fasted that by His fast greediness might be reproved.
Because sin entered by eating, He defeated it by abstinence
and thus put an end to its rule over humankind."[19]

Week of the Life-giving Passion and Night of the Resurrection

The celebration of the Fast of our Lord during the first forty days of our seven weeks culminates in the week of the Life-giving Passion. This is introduced, as in the sequence of the Gospel events now onwards to be followed day by day, by two significant feasts. At Bethany our Lord raises Lazarus from the tomb, and on the following day, He makes a triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The significance of these celebrations is that they quicken the faith of the Church in both the humanity and the divinity of Her Lord. The tears of Jesus at the tomb of His friend witness to His humanity, while the manifestation of His power over death when He commands in a loud voice to the man in the tomb, buried three days earlier, "Lazarus, come out," and the dead man came out, reveals His divinity

Similarly the triumphant entry into the Holy City is a manifestation of both power and humility, in truth and freedom from the powers of the world. This is brought out in the contrast between the simple faith of the children and of the crowd, awakened by the prophetic image projected by Jesus, His zeal for truth, and on the other hand the bitter frustration and rising antagonism of the leaders of the people:

"Our Lord came to this world walking in humility.
Prompted by His love for all creatures, He became flesh,
but did not use the adorned mounts of the mighty.
He rode on an ass to visit His people in humility.

The children of the Hebrews saw the humility of the great King
and acclaimed Him with hosannas and by waving branches.
The young proclaimed their love boldly and loudly.
This irritated the old, but the young did not cease
to sing the praise of Him who humbled Himself."[20]

"Come, preachers of truth, prophets of the spirit
who foretold the coming of the Only Son,
rejoice, exult and be glad today.
He comes, He is near, He is there,
riding upon the foal of an ass, and He enters Jerusalem
while the children and the young people sing glory to Him.
Hosanna in the heights and in the depths.

You are carried with Your Father in a whirlwind of fire
while the chariot of the Winged Creatures
offers blessings to the majesty of Your glory.
But You humble Yourself for us, seating Yourself on a poor donkey.
Glory to You who so inclined Your greatness for our sake,
and from the glory of the heavenly beings came to our poor selves."[21]

The mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord are at the heart of the life of the Church. The Syrian Churches have left some of their most beautiful poetical writings on them. These events are celebrated simultaneously all through the week, in the one perspective of the death of the Son of God at the hands of the sons of men, and of His Resurrection from among the dead, proclaiming His victory over Satan, death and sin,

with the restoration of Adam and his children to their full participation in God's life. Yet within this unique perspective for the whole week each day also obtains its proper identity.

The week of the Life-giving Passion is also called the Week of the Great suffering, and it is so undoubtedly. Yet it is also pregnant with a sense of victory which makes the Church burst out into praise, while the whole Creation is associated with it. The halleluia is therefore never absent, it resounds throughout the week, at every hour of the day or the night, at the proclamation of the Gospel, but also in many hymns.

These are very privileged days, as the re-enactment of the Life-giving Mysteries obtains its full vigour in their original unfolding in time, one week. Day by day, hour by hour, the Church identifies with her Lord in His prophetic utterances and gestures, His trials and His agony, His crucifixion and His death, and on Saturday His visitation to sheol, to announce first there His Resurrection. It is for the sake of the truth and realism of such an identification, and also out of respect for the sacramental character of the Economy of Salvation that the Church abstains from the celebration of the Holy Qurbana during the three days of mounting opposition to Jesus which preceded its institution by our Lord, at the Last Supper. This ancient tradition common to all Oriental Churches is now little understood and consequently ignored by the Malankara Catholic Church. When in 1930 the Orthodox Archbishop Mar Ivanios came into communion with Rome, he asked his priests to abstain from celebrating the Holy Qurbana these three days. The priests however could not resist the pressure of the Latin custom favouring the multiplication of sacramental celebrations. Such a praxis follows almost inevitably from a theology of the sacraments explaining their efficacy in the Latin formula *ex opere operato* while giving little attention to their true nature which is that of signs or symbols. Thus the injunction of the Archbishop was not followed. Yet we felt we could still make it our own practice.

The stage is set for the week's celebration on Sunday evening, when the sanctuary remains closed. The veil will be drawn aside only on Thursday for the celebration of the Great Passover. Meanwhile the altar on which the Trinity descends and where the body of the Son is broken and His blood mixed to be distributed to the believers is no more accessible. The worshipping community will now gather for cultic assemblies without sacrifice,

as Israel after the temple had been destroyed. They come together before the Bible stand from where the Word of God is read at each gathering. The prayer of the Church concentrates exclusively on Christ. No prayer is addressed to the saints, or makes mention of them expect on Thursday and Saturday in the celebration of the Communion of Saints. Hence the climatic place given to the Gospel, towards the end of each Service. It is read in its harmonized form[27], so that no crumb may fall on the ground and no meaningful word be left out of the wondrous story of the life-giving sufferings of the Uniquely-Beloved Son of God.

The celebration embraces all the human events and divine interventions related to it, or which led to it, and finally brought it about. This extends very far, for the Passion of our Lord is associated with creation and the fall of Adam and Eve, with the call of Abraham, the ill-treatment of his descendants in Egypt and their liberation with power, and their settlement in the land of promise, with the seers and the messianic kings, the prophets and the sages, the law and the temple, the feasts of the year and the daily sacrifices. It is out of all these that the Son of Mary emerges with increasingly clearer features as the true Servant of the Lord, the Innocent who was to suffer in order that the guilty may repent and find mercy at the hour of judgement. The same Servant was later to be acknowledged by His disciples as the Image of the Invisible God and the Firstborn of every creature.

Monday and *Tuesday* recreate for the Church the atmosphere of increasing opposition to the mission of Jesus. Two main biblical themes emerge which are proclaimed in the scriptural reading: the vineyard of God, and the coming of the Lord, with the watchfulness which this demands from His people. The theme of the vineyard is first recalled by the murder of Naboth at the hands of king Ahab's men, in order to seize the poor man's land. More moving and more constantly evoked is Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard, the song of God's love rejected by the beloved. More dramatic still is the Gospel's parable of the wicked tenants of the vineyard, because it comes from the lips of Jesus Himself, and was created by Him to illustrate the existential situation in which He found Himself, and also to reveal His own place in the perspective of the whole Economy of Salvation. This gives it in unsurpassable force. The parable is at once judgement and promise. The persecution and the killing of the prophets find their climax in the persecution and the killing of the Son. But the stone rejected becomes the corner-stone. The Messiah rejected by the

jealous leaders of the people, will be exalted as the Lord on high through His Resurrection which ushers in the time of the Church to whom is entrusted the new life, and ultimately the Kingdom of God in which is gathered the harvest of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience... It is remarkable that the Eucharistic Prayers of Monday and Tuesday which celebrate all these mysteries can be read meaningfully on each day of the week.

Wednesday is called Wednesday of the Conspiracies. The Gospel tells us that the chief priests and the elders of the people, the Sanhedrin, the highest court of justice and supreme council, conspired to arrest Jesus secretly and to put Him to death. The antagonism to Him has reached its climax and takes a decisive turn:

> "A people foolish and blind conspire to condemn Him to death
> because He came to seek fruits of recognition
> from the vineyard planted at His command."[23]

But the darkest feature of the conspiracies is of course the betrayal of Judas which crops up again and again in the prayer of the Church, even on Thursday:

"On Wednesday and Thursday at Jerusalem there is intrigue and tension between buyer and seller, and neither of them makes any gain. Judas sells and Caiaphas purchases. They are traders of deception.
He who sells does not gain, neither does he who buys.
Jesus Himself is troubled in spirit when He reveals the betrayal, halleluia, Judas receives the bread and goes forth. It was night."[24]

Thursday of the Great Passover. The name of this feast attests its Old Testament origins, the Jewish Feast of the Passover or of the Paschal lamb. But its newness is immediately asserted, even in the Opening Praise, "Christ who by Your Passover have ended the Passover of the lamb, rejoice us with Your Passover and be gracious to all".

The Responses and Hymns, as usual, are truly woven out of the Gospel account. The theology of the day, the theology of the Mysteries, that is of the sacraments is found mainly in the Eucharistic Prayers:

> "After eating with Your disciples the lamb prescribed by the law and while celebrating the Mystery of the Passover, You made them understand that the prefiguration was now to be fulfilled, and the

foreshadowing was to yield to the light, and the truth be manifested. 'I have a Mystery, I have a Mystery, I and the children of my household, a new Mystery which is revealed to them.' And taking the bread in Your holy hands, and having said the blessing and broken it, You gave it to Your disciples, the children of Your Mystery, saying, 'This is my body which is broken for many and is given for the sins of the world'. And You mixed the cup from wine and water, and gave it to them to drink saying, 'This is the cup of the New Covenant in My blood. Take and drink it, all of you. Do not doubt that I sacrifice Myself and consecrate Myself for you. From this time the old order has passed away and all things have become new. Do this in memory of Me."

"On this evening You conferred the priesthood on the noble company of Peter's household, and they took charge of the Divine Treasure-house to distribute Your living body among the peoples and the nations, and to give Your blood to drink to all the tribes and races. Likewise today, on this evening, it is given in remission of sins to all the lands and countries according to Your commandment, Lord, to accomplish Your Life-giving Memorial".[25]

The Lord had already revealed the newness of His Passover when He washed the feet of His disciples. The Holy Washing, undoubtedly, was meant to remove from the Twelve, the pillars of the Church, all triumphalism and self-complacency in the fulfilment of their mission. The "all things have become new" and "the Wonderful Mystery" can be only the fruit of the humiliation and utter self-sacrifice of Christ, and later of His followers.

The Great Friday of the Crucifixion is a climax of the celebration of the Life-giving Passion. In Saint Paul's well known hymn of the letter to the Philippians on the Mystery of the Word made flesh, it is the kenosis of Christ in His death, which marks the fulness of His humiliation, that opens the way to His glorification. The Friday of the Great Suffering, as it is also called, is very much the climax of the celebration in Kerala, where good Friday is a public holiday - all works cease and the whole day is observed as a day of fast and prayer. In the Churches the day is marked by long ceremonies. At the Ashram we begin at 3.45 AM and continue in prayer, with some brief intervals until 3 PM. There are two processions. The first one, outside, as when Christ was led out to Golgotha, the other, inside, after the adoration of the Cross, when the body of Christ- the naked Cross -is carried to the sanctuary to be buried under the altar. But the golden

thread of the celebration is the proclamation of the Gospel, hour after hour, with appropriate reading from the Law, from the prophets and the apostolic writing , with well - chosen psalms and hymns and homilies.

In the prayers, the Jewish people and their institutions are often given a harsh treatment. We had to prune such portions or even leave them out and provide substitutes. But what remains with us is really very considerable and of an astonishing beauty, made of a great realism, with humanity and at the same time a deep sense of the divine and of its all-pervading presence in the Creation. The prayer of the Church shows here no inclination to magnify the apostles. It repeatedly brings out their total failure to stand by their Master and Lord, all of them. Peter's denial is recalled as the most miserable fall. But a whole *Madrosho* of Saint Ephrem describes, in very moving yet uncompromising terms, the pangs of the conversion that brought Him back to the feet of his Master."[26] It is the inner drama that inspires our hymns, as when the thief's repentance is contrasted with the disciples' inconstancy:

"The faith of the thief is truly great and firm,
as he asks forgiveness from his Lord hanging on the Cross.
While the nails are in His hands and His feet,
he says, 'Forgive me my evil-doing'.
Simon Peter denies Him saying with an oath,
'I do not know this man'.
John the Virgin and the disciples flee and are scattered,
but the criminial cries out, 'Remember me, my Lord,
when You come into Your Kingdom."[27]

Among the psalms, 43, "Defend me, O God..." is given a privileged place. It comes every day at the Night Vigil. The psalmist who had experienced God as the joy of his life finds himself in a state of extreme desolation, "Why have you rejected me?" as an ungodly nation, deceitful and impious men threaten his life. Yet the psalm ends on a note of hope, his prayer bears fruit, as he concludes, "Wait for God. my soul. For I shall still praise him..." This week the psalm evokes for us the human experience of the Son of man in His passion and death. His own weakness in the face of suffering, as in the Garden, in the face of the cowardice of His closest disciples, or the perfidy of one of them and of His people and their leaders. On Friday that is still made clearer. "Why have you rejected me?" anticipates

the last word; of Jesus in Mark's account of His death. Such are also Psalm 54 "O God save me ..." and Psalm 22, where the last words of Jesus are found literally, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" Very meaningful also is Psalm 55, "Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer..." which can hardly be distinguished in style and content from some of the hymns. When the question is asked in one of them, "Why, our Lord, have You made supplication that the cup of death be removed from You?" the answer is given:

"In the form of Adam which You assumed
You made supplication to the Father for Adam,
that be removed from him and from his children
the cup of the second death, mixed for him
by the Evil One, from the time he sinned,
and to be given to drink to his children".[28]

One of the most astounding prayers of the Great Friday of the Crucifixion is the Supplication Song of the Morning Service. The Gospel tells us that at the end of the night trial, when the Sanhedrin pronounced that Jesus deserved death, early morning, He was taken to Pilate in order to obtain the Governor's verdict. At this announcement the Church, seeing the death of her Spouse as the dawn of the new life, as the new creation, bursts into praise:

"Glory to You, Christ-Morning,
from all that Your Majesty has created.
Glory to You, on all mornings,
for You are the Morning that gladdens all.
Glory to You from all beauties, for You are the beauty of all beauties.
You are He who clothes with beauty
all plants and flowers.
Glory to You who are the staff
and the support of all those who need support.

Glory to You, Lord of graciousness.
Glory to You, Lord of all, a thousand times.
Glory to You, myriads and myriads of times.
Glory to You, Judge of Judges, who stood in the tribunal.
Glory to You, our Lord, from Your Church.

And praise to You from her children.
Glory to You and to the Father who sent You.
And to the Holy Spirit exaltation."[29]

Saturday of the Good Tidings

The mystery celebrated on the Saturday of the Good Tidings is the first announcement of the Resurrection of Jesus, which He himself brought to the dead, when at His death on the Cross His soul descended among them in Sheol. Though not celebrated by the Latin and Greek Churches, this is an event of the Economy of Salvation well- attested in the Scriptures of both testaments, as can be seen from the readings of the day. As Peter said on the day of Pentecost, after quoting David's psalm, "My flesh shall rest in hope, for Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor let Thy loyal servant see corruption." When David said that He was not abandoned to Sheol and His flesh never suffered corruption, he spoke with foreknowledge of the resurrection of the Messiah. Though not yet found in the Nicene Creed, the Descent of Christ into Sheol is included in several later symbols of the faith: "Jesus... was buried. He went down to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead..." Christs' descent into Sheol has long been popular in Christian iconography, and it is still held as the proper icon of the Resurrection of Christ.

The descent of Jesus among the dead is celebrated by the Church as an epiphany of His victory over the powers of death. In that sense it anticipates the appearances of Jesus after His Resurrection on the third day. The Eucharist is celebrated in commemoration of this event, though not on the altar in the sanctuary under which lies Christ who was buried there on Friday. The sanctuary remains closed and an altar is erected before the veil of the sanctuary. All the Services, including the Holy Qurbana, are celebrated in subdued voice, as in the presence of a dead person, out of reverence for the mystery that enshrouds death.

The Gospels of the day are the accounts of the burial of Jesus. The prayers celebrate the mystery that is hidden in it as the manifestation of Christ's power over death. They praise "His life-giving burial sprinkling on the dead the dew of graciousness, of compassion and of the new life".[30] They speak of it as His visit to Adam, when He reclined at his side, making Himself one of the dead in order to announce life to them. And this takes the form of a real theophany, "Today a great light shines in Sheol which

had never seen the light."[31] The realism of the mystery is conveyed with great power, by having recourse as usual, to the contrast of opposites, "Christ, Life Divine, Incorruptible and Immortal entwined Himself with Death, was knit together with her."[32] Mary herself is made to witness to this life-giving tragedy, even before the burial:

> "Mary drew near Jesus.
> She leaned her head against the Cross
> and began to sing sorrowfully lametations to Him.
> My Son, who will give me the wings of an eagle
> to fly to the four quarters of the earth
> and invite all nations to come
> to the feast of Your great slaughter."[33]

There are also dramatic personifications of the powers at work in the conflict of the Creation with God:

> "The Lord cried out in a loud voice and Death heard it.
> The Creation was terrified and the rocks split apart.
> Light shone in the darkness
> and the radiance of the Son wiped out Death.
>
> Those who were lying prostrate in Sheol clapped their hands
> for the voice of the Resurrection that called them.
> Death terror-stricken howled and said to Satan,
> her friend, "Hear from me what happened:
> the tombs burst open and the dead went forth."
> "His name is Jesus" answered the Evil One.
> "He is the fruit which came to the Virgin.
> He is the Son of God, and the worlds quaked
> when He was crucified on Golgotha.
> He takes away Your burden, He who was crucified
> at the hands of the people who listened to me".[34]

While being essentially a celebration of Christ's victory over death and of His salvation, it includes the commemoration of those to whom the resurrection is announced and who have experienced His salvation, as narrated in the Gospel according to Saint Mathew. "Today Sheol is resounding with praises and the dead rejoicing in their tombs shoot up

as flowers in the month of April... the captives return to their former place. Today all those who slept cry out with one accord, 'Blessed is the glory of the Lord from His place for ever."[35] Hence the celebration of the Service of the Communion of Saints at the Night Vigil, quite exceptional this week, and it turns into a universal commemoration of all the saints and just since the creation:

"Garlands of praises and adorations are offered
by the just whom He awakes by His crucifixion
First Adam, the head of all races comes to worship, and Seth
the beautiful, and the house of Noah together with Abraham.

Then come the just, the fathers and the leaders of all peoples,
the priests and the kings whom the prince of Sheol
first took captive. Moses and all the companies of the prophets,
Aaron the priest and all the priests sons of Levi,
offer their adorations."[36]

Finally the mystery is brought closer to us in the last Service of this day, the Service of Mutual Forgiveness which will be sealed at night, at the end of the Service of the Resurrection, with the mutual gift of peace, following the Exaltation of the Cross, the Exaltation of the Risen Christ.

The Great Sunday of the Resurrection. There is only one Christian feast, the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection from among the dead. This is the feast of feasts and there is no other like it. All other feasts flow from it as a river from its source. It is also the crown of glory of all other festivals. A new humanity is created, a redeemed, vivified humankind, after overcoming death, sin and Satan: "As in Adam all men died so in Christ all are brought to life... Christ, the Firstfruits, and afterwards... those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers up the Kingdom to God the Father... until God is all in all."[37] As all the prophecies come to fulfilment today, the Creation sings praise to Christ who is risen. The Church is filled with holy light, like His tomb at the Resurrection, and she does not cease to sing and praise "the day which has no evening... the New day which does away with the ancient darkness... the Bright Morning which no setting shall veil... the Flower of the Resurrection which marks the end of suffering and makes creatures of this earth like the creatures of heaven".[38]

Once more the newness of the mystery is conveyed in a cascade of contrasts: "Yesterday the Shepherd was struck and the sheep were scattered and today they gather together with joy and exultation. Yesterday Judas received the thirty pieces of silver and Caiaphas gave orders and had them obeyed. Annas accused. The elders of the priests made much ado. The scribes spread terror. Pilate sat in judgement and the Lord stood before him. Today Caiaphas is confounded. Annas is ridiculed and Judas has hanged himself and thrown away the thirty pieces of silver. The scribes are cowed. The elders of the priests are cast down. The Pharisees are covered with shame and accuse one another of having committed a fault. Today the way to the tomb resounds with good tidings, echoed on Golgotha still wrapped in grief."[39]

We have called the feast, the Night of the Resurrection, to indicate that all our services are celebrated between sunset of Saturday and dawn on Sunday. At the end of the Third Watch, long before dawn, priests and deacons enter the sanctuary for the Service of the Resurrection, when the Cross- the body of Christ buried under the altar on Friday - is taken out of the tomb, no more as the naked Cross, but as the Cross of life, dressed in a red stole, as the solitary conqueror of Isaiah when he was asked, "Why is your garment red?" The red stole is the garment of victory. This is well signified when the Cross is raised three times before the Congregation, by the main celebrant, "We bring you good tidings. Christ is risen from the tomb..." while the Congregation responds each time: "We believe and confess that He is truly risen". And when the priests and deacons have resumed their place in the Congregation, soon will be heard the triumphant ninefold halleluia, which will resound every day of the year to mark the Fourth Watch of the Night Vigil, the greeting of the dawn, the new day.

The Annunciation to the Mother of God

During this holy season the feasts of saints have been inserted in the season itself, as the Saturday celebration. The Annunciation to the Mother of God is given a special regard, it is always celebrated on its calender date. In the Syrian Orthodox Lectionary published at Pambakuda, on March 25, we read, "Although this feast has been kept on the Fourth Sunday of the Crown of the Year, it should also be celebrated today. This celebration will fall usually during the great Fast or during the week of the Passion. We do not celebrate Qurbana during these days, except on Saturdays and Sundays and also on Wednesday the Middle of the Fast, on Friday the Fortieth Day

and on Thursday of the Great passover. But the feast of the Annunciation is always celebrated with Qurbana today, whatever day of the week it may be". An absolute priority is thus given to this feast, even during the week of the Passion.

Francis Acharya

We are now publishing the second revised edition of this volume, incorporating the corrections made by Francis Acharya in the first edition.

Abbot Yesudas Thelliyil

The Common Prayers

When we come together for prayer, we stand with our face turned towards the east. Folding our hands on our breast and recollecting our thoughts, we make the sign of the Cross saying the prayer of invocation.

Doxology

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
And on us weak and sinful servants
mercy and compassion in both worlds for ever and ever. Amen.

Trisagion

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of all Cosmic Forces,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who has come and is to come
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The four lines that follow: "Holy are you" ...are said three times, each time with the sign of the Cross and a prostration, replaced on Sundays and Feastdays by a profound bow.

Holy are You, O God
Holy are You the Strong.
Holy are You the Deathless who were crucified for us.
Have mercy on us.

Then standing upright we raise our hands while looking up and we say:

Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have pity and mercy on us.
Lord, receive our service and our prayers and have mercy on us.
Glory to You, O God. Glory to You, Creator.
Glory to You, Christ the King,
who have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless, Lord.

Here we bow, make the sign of the Cross, and raising our hands and looking up we say:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need. Forgive us our sins and offences as we forgive those who have offended against us. Do not let us enter into temptation and deliver us from the Evil One. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, our Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lady Mary, Virgin Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and always and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Doxology *After the initial Trisagion, before the Opening Prayer.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
And on us weak and sinful servants
mercy and compassion in both worlds for ever and ever. Amen.

Profession of Faith *At the end of the services, especially at the end of the Service of Prayer Protection before the Night.*

We believe in one true God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, Only Son of God, who was born of the Father before all worlds: Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made and equal in essence to His Father, by whom all things were made. For us men and for our Salvation He came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and became man. He was crucified for us in the days of Pontius Pilate and suffered and died and was buried. He rose on the third day according to His will and ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of His Father and will come again in His great glory to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom has no end. We believe in one living Holy Spirit, who is the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets and Apostles, and in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We confess that there is one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the new life in the world to come. Amen.

The Common Evening Prayers

HYMN FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMP

Before the service, if convenient
The Response after each stanza is: Holy and Blessed Jesus Christ.

Joy-giving Light
of the Holy Glory
of the Heavenly and Immortal Father

* * *

We gather at the close of day,
beholding the evening light.
We praise
the Father through the Son
in the Holy Spirit of God.

* * *

At all times,
O Lord,
You are worthy of praise,
with holy songs. Son of God,
Giver of life,
the world gives glory to You.

* * *

Doxology Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
And on us weak and sinful servants
Mercy and compassion in both words for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer *On ferial days of the Great Fast only.*

Grant, Lord, to Your Churches
that they may fast and pray before You in purity and holiness,
and make peace and tranquillity which are so dear to You dwell in them.
Shed Your blessings on Your people and on all nations.
Help all men to seek You and find You
in this holy season and in all seasons.
And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration *With a prostration or a profound bow, each time.*

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms and Responses *For each ferial day of the Great fast*

MONDAY PSALM 86 (85) Incline You ear, Lord, and answer me...

RESPONSE

O Lord, You are God, be gracious to us. Every day at the evening hour,
we gather before You to offer prayers.
We will praise You, Lord, with all our heart.
We will glorify Your Name for ever, so great is Your love for us.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the God who comforts us all in our trials,
that we also may comfort those who are suffering,
sharing with them the consolation we receive from God.

* * *

TUESDAY PSALM 5 Give ear to my words, O Lord...

RESPONSE

O Lord, let all who seek refuge in You rejoice.
Let them for ever break into shouts of joy.
Give shelter to those who love Your Name,
that they may ever exult in You.

Those who have come through the great ordeal,
He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them.
The Lamp will lead them to springs of water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

* * *

WEDNESDAY PSALM 144 I will exalt you, Lord, my King...

RESPONSE

O Lord You are great and worthy of all praise.
Age to age proclaims Your mighty deeds.
They recount the story of Your boundless love
and sing of Your righteousness with joy.

God loved us with so much love,
that when we were dead through our sins
He brought us to life in Christ.
How great is His kindness in His Son Jesus.

THURSDAY PSALM 84 (83) How lovely is Your dwelling-place, O Lord...

RESPONSE
Happy are those who dwell in Your house,
for ever singing Your praise.
Happy are those who seek refuge in You,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrim ways.

Our home is the city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem.
We are seekers after the city which is to come.
Let us then always offer praise to God through Jesus,
and help one another, this is the sacrifice that pleases God.

* * *

FRIDAY PSALM 55 (54) : 1-15 Give ear, O God, to my prayer.....

RESPONSE
It was not My enemy that rose against Me
that I should avoid him and hide from him,
but My own companion, My friend, who shared My life,
whether visiting the house of God or mingling among the throngs.

Distress and anguish came over Jesus.
"My heart is breaking with grief", He said.
And He threw himself on the ground and prayed:
"Father, take this cup away from Me!
Yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt".

* * *

Evening Psalms 141, 142, 119: 105-112, 117

We call upon You, Lord, hear us.
Give heed to our words and answer us.

Let our prayer be like incense in Your sight
and the raising of our hands like the evening oblation.
Lord, set a guard before our mouths.
keep watch at the door of our lips,
that our hearts may not turn to evil words
and we may not indulge in deeds of wickedness.

We will not sit at the table of the wicked.
Let the just man teach us, let him reprove us,
but the oil of the wicked shall not anoint our heads.
Our prayer is against their evil doing...

We lift up our eyes to You, Lord.
We put our trust in You, do not reject us.
Keep us from the hand of the proud
who have laid snares for us...

With all our voice we cry to You, Lord.
With all our voice we make supplication.
We pour out our affliction before You,
we lay bare our brokenness.
Our spirit is in the dark, but You know our paths.

On the way we have to walk
they have hidden snares for us.
We look to the right, and see no one who knows us.
There is no way, and there is not one who cares for us.
We cry out to You, Lord, and we say: "You are our refuge.
You are our portion in the land of the living".

Hear our supplication, we are in distress.
Deliver us from our persecutors,
they are too strong for us.
Lead us forth from prison that we may praise Your Name.
Your just ones are waiting for us
until You give us Your reward.

Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light upon our path.
We have sworn and have determined
to keep Your holy decrees.
We are greatly brought low, Lord.
Give us life according to Your word.
Be pleased, Lord, with the words of our lips
and teach us Your decrees.

Our lives are always in Your hands,
we do not forget Your law.

The wicked have set traps for us,
but we do not stray from Your commands.
We treasure up Your testimonies.
Truly they are the joy of our hearts
Incline our hearts to keep Your commands, for ever, in truth.

Praise the lord, all you nations.
Praise Him, all you peoples.
Great is His goodness for us.
Truly, the Lord's goodness is for ever.

To You belongs the praise, O God. Halleluia.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
As we call to You, Lord,
hear the sound of our supplication
and be gracious to all.

We entreat You, Lord,
turn Your ear to our prayers
and be gracious to all.

We make supplication to You, Lord,
forgive our offences
and be gracious to all.

We praise Your Name, Lord,
for You are our help,
be gracious to all.

Show us Your ways, Lord,
make Your paths known to Your people
and be gracious to all.

Your word is a lamp to guide us, Lord.
Direct our steps on Your paths
and be gracious to all.

We offer thanksgiving, adoration and praise,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
at all times.

On the Ferial Days of the Great Fast, after the Psalms follow the Eucharistic Prayer, Hymns, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Supplication Song, all according to the day of the week. These are followed by the Bible Reading according to each day:

1 *Genesis and later Isaiah and the Lamentations of Jeremiah.*
2 *Books of Wisdom: Sirach, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom.*
3 *Epistles of James, Peter, John.*
4 *Synoptic Gospels.*

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations *On ferial days in the First Half of the Great Fast.*

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The word of God is alive and active.
It is sharper than any two-edged sword.
It cuts all the way through,
to where the soul meets the spirit.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Nothing can be hidden from God.
Everything lies open before His eyes.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

On ferial days in the Second Half of the Great Fast

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Show us Your ways, Lord, reveal Your paths to us.
Guide us by Your truth and teach us,
for You are God and our Saviour.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life.
He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit.
Apart from Me you can do nothing, says Jesus.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Concluding Prayer Lord Jesus Christ,
do not close the door of Your mercy on our faces.
Lord, we confess that we are sinners, be gracious to all.

Your love made You descend from Your place to us.
Lord by whose death our death was ended
be gracious to the whole world.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Common Prayers for the Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy ! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

Opening Prayer *On ferial days of the Great Fast*

Make us worthy, Lord our God,
to stand before Your Majesty in purity,
to keep vigil in all wakefulness, meditating on Your graciousness,
to knock at the door of Your dwelling place
and to persevere in prayer which is pleasing to You.
Answer us when we call upon You,
that at all times we may praise You,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

On Sundays, Feasts and all days of the Season of the Resurrection
Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin,
that we may praise Your wakefulness,
O wakeful one who do not sleep.
Give life to our death in the sleep of death and corruption,
that we may adore Your compassion,
Living One who do not die.
And make us worthy to praise You and bless You in holiness,
with the glorious companies of the angels on high,
that You may be praised and blessed on earth and in heaven,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Night Psalms 134, 119:169-176, 117

Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord.

Bless, Lord! You who stand in the house of the Lord
through the watches of the night.

Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from His Holy Mountain,
He who made heaven and earth.

Lord let our praise enter into Your presence
and give us life by Your word.
Let our supplication enter into Your sight, Lord,
and set us free by Your word...

May our lips pour forth Your word
on account of the holiness of all Your commands.

May our tongues repeat Your praise
because You taught us Your commands.
Let Your hand come to our help
because we take our delight in Your law.

We long for Your salvation
and we meditate on Your law.
Let us live that we may praise You
and Your decrees will give us help.

We have gone astray like the lost sheep,
come in search of Your servants
for we have not for forgotten all Your commands.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise Him, all you peoples.
Great is His goodness for us.
Truly, the Lord's goodness is for ever.

To you belongs the praise, O God. Halleluia.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

On Ferial Days of the Great Fast, The First, Second and Third Watches have proper Psalms, Responses, Eucharistic Prayers, Hymns and Supplication Songs on each day of the week.

ACCLAMATIONS *Before the II and III watches*

Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place for ever.
Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place for ever.
You are blessed, Lord, to You be glory from Your place for ever.

Holy and glorious Trinity, have mercy on us.
Holy and glorious Trinity, have mercy on us.
Holy and glorious Trinity, have compassion and mercy on us.

You are holy and glorious for ever.
You are holy and glorious for ever.
You are holy and Your name is blessed for ever.

Glory to You, our Lord.
Glory to You, our Lord.
Glory to You, our hope for ever. Bless, Lord.

Our Father in heaven... Hail Mary, full of grace...

THIRD WATCH

On all Sundays and Feastdays

ACCLAMATIONS Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... *as above*

A SERVICE FOR THE RESURRECTION

A common Service on all Sundays and Feastdays

COMMON RESPONSE

Give rest, Lord, to our departed in Your abode of light.
Give rest to them, Lord, and be gracious to all.
Forgive and pass over the faults of us and them.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the God who raises the dead and gives life to them with a gesture of His power and shakes from their faces the dust which darkens their eyes that they may behold His glory. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord Jesus Christ, at that hour when You shall appear at the end of time, and the sign of Your victory shall be revealed, when the light of Your countenance shall shine upon the good and Your fear shall fall upon the wicked... do not remember our faults. We beseech You, Lord, make us and our departed, and all the people of the Holy Church worthy to exalt You with the Watchers, to praise You with the Fiery Ones, to worship You with the saints and to be gladdened by the sight of Your Godhead, now and always and for ever. Amen.

HYMN

With the son of Your right hand, Lord,
may our fathers and brothers take their pleasure.
May they hear Your sweet voice which calls and says:
"Come, enter, inherit the Kingdom with the saints".

Isaiah cried to the Messiah, the Rising Sun, who awakens
the dead and makes them to rise from their graves :
"They will open their wings like doves and fly to meet You".
Blessed is He who has come and will come. Glory to His Name.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Praise to You by whose decree Death reigned
and by whose Resurrection the serpent is defeated.
Praise ascends to You, Lord, from every mouth.
From every place You gather together the dust of Adam.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The dead who by Your death receive the pledge of life
will praise You, Lord, from within the grave.
They will shake off the dust and be clothed with glory.
On the day of the resurrection
they will return to the heights, their true dwelling place.

SUPPLICATION SONG Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Renew, O Full of Mercy, Your creatures by the resurrection.

Your servants and Your worshippers who have slept in Your hope.

O Lord, give rest and pardon to the dead
who have slept in Your hope and await Your coming.

Give rest to those in the grave, O Heavenly King,
and multiply forgiveness for the departed believers.

At the side of Abraham, Issaac and Jacob, O Lord,
make to rest Your servants who have slept in Your hope.

Glory to Christ who calls the dead
and they rise without corruption and sing praise.

Body, soul and spirit will awake and cry together:
"Blessed is He who has come and will come and raise the dead".

FOURTH WATCH

A Daily Morning Service. To mark the end of the Night vigil,
the sanctuary lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

FOR THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia, glory to You, O God (3 times)

Be compassionate towards us in Your mercy, O God of compassion.
In our sacrifice and our prayers
We make memory of our fathers who taught us.
While they were alive, to be children of God.
Son of God, raise them up in the Heavenly Kingdom,
with the just and the righteous,
in the world which does not pass away.

MARY'S SONG
And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord.
My spirit rejoice in God my Saviour.

He has looked on His servant in her nothingness.
Henceforth all generations will count me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is holy and His graciousness
is from age to age on those who revere Him.

He has conquered by His might arm
and has scattered the proud - hearted.
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
but He has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but sent the rich away empty.
He has helped Israel His servant
remembering His graciousness,
as He had promised to our forefathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever".

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

PSALM 133

How good and beautiful it is for brothers to live in unity !

It is like oil poured on the head and on the beard,
poured on the beard of Aaron, even to the edge of his robe.

It is like the dew of Mount Hermon which comes down
on Jerusalem, the Holy Mountain, for it is from there
that the Lord gives His blessings and life for ever.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE

Remember Mary, and may she help us by her prayers.

Remember all the saints and may they help us by their prayers.

Prophets, apostles and martyrs,
may your prayer always be with us.

Make us worthy, Lord, of the abode of Your martyrs
and the home where dwell Your friends.

O Compassionate One, full of graciousness.
on the day of Your judgement, be gracious to all.

Because there, Lord, You promised Your blessings and life for ever.

Blessed is He whose mercy is never withheld
from the sinner who calls upon Him.

Lord remember well the people of the Church of believers.

And make them stand ay Your righat hand,
on the day when Your Majesty appears.

At all times and seasons, Virgin Mother of God,
may your prayer be a stronghold for us.

By the prayers of Your saints, keep from us the Evil One,
who at all times lays snares for us.

Jesus, our Lord and our God,
may Your Cross be our shelter and our stronghold.

Jesus, Word of God, by Your Cross protect the living,
and pardon the dead in Your mercy.

On all the days of our life,
let us give thanks, adoration and praise
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All merciful God, on the great day when You come,
raise us up at Your right hand.

You who have made us worthy to praise You,
make us worthy to inherit Your Kingdom.

May Your mercy be upon us, Lord.
O Lord of life and death, be gracious to all.

Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Awake, you that sleep, and rise to sing praise.

The Cosmic Praise PSALMS 148,149, 150, 117

Praise the Lord from the heavens.
Praise Him in the heights.
Praise Him, all His angles.
Praise Him, all His powers.

Praise Him, sun and moon.
Praise Him, all stars of light.
Praise Him, highest heaven
and the waters above the heaven
Let them praise the Name of the Lord.

He said a word and they were made.
He commanded and they were created.
He set them for ever
and gave them a law which shall not pass away

Praise the Lord, all the earth,
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey His word.

All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
all beasts and cattle,
creeping things and birds that fly in the air.

All earth's kings and peoples,
princes and rulers of the world,
young men and maidens,
old men and children,
let them praise the Name of the Lord.

For He alone is exalted,
His praise is on earth and in heaven.
He exalts the strength of His people.
He is the praise of all believers,
of the people who draw near to Him.

Praise the Lord with a new praise.
Praise Him in the assembly of believers.
Let His people rejoice in their Maker.
Let their children be glad with their King.

Let them praise His Name with tambourines and drums,
and sing to Him with their harps.
The Lord takes delight in His people.
He gives salvation to the poor.

The devotees find strength in the Glorious One.
They exalt Him and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips...
This is the glory of all believers.

Praise the Lord in His holy place.
Praise Him in the heavenly vault of His power.
Praise Him for His powerful deeds.
Praise Him for the infinite greatness.
Praise Him with the sound of the horn.
Praise Him with the lute and the harp.

Praise Him with the tambourine and the drum.
Praise Him with the sweet melodies.
Praise Him with the clashing of cymbals.
Praise Him with the sound of the voice.
Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise Him, all you peoples.
Great is His goodness for us.
Truly, the Lord's goodness is for ever.
To You belongs the praise, O God. Halleluia.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

Common Response

Praise to the Holy Trinity.
Praise to the Holy Trinity.
We praise the Glorious Trinity,
Eternal and Everlasting.
To You belongs the praise, O God, at all times.

Supplication Song *As on each particular day.*

On Sundays and Feasts, after the concluding Supplication Song, the other concluding prayers, including the Hymn of Saint Athanasius.

On all Ferial Days of the Great Fast, the Service of Repentance as here below. It is followed by the Supplication Song, the Intercessions and the final Trisagion.

THE SERVICE OF REPENTANCE

From Psalm 32 (31)

Happy are those whose offences are forgiven,
halleluia, halleluia,
and whose sins are remitted.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
halleluia, halleluia,
and in whose heart is no guile.

I kept it secret and my bones wasted away.
halleluia, halleluia,
as I was groaning all day long.

Night and day Your hand was heavy upon me,
halleluia, halleluia,
I was exhausted as a land without shade in the summer's heat.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

Common response

How beautiful is fast with love,
with discernment and great desire,

with devotion and constant prayer !
If their is no love with it,
the Most High will not give heed to it.
By fast with love and prayer and prayer the weak obtain wings.
Blessed is He who hears His worshippers.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Holy One and Giver of Holiness, and Fountain of all Blessedness, who was made like us in all things except for sin. By His Holy Fast He cast down the Enemy of our race, and by His labours of perfection He trod for us the way of repentance and of the entrance to the Kingdom. To Him we sing praise and glory on account of His Economy for our sake, and we offer our adorations at this time of the night vigil...

We adore You, Christ our God, because of Your love for us. By Your Holy and Life-giving Fast, You make to pass away from us the greediness which caused the transgression of the command in Paradise at the beginning, and You annul for us the sentence of death pronounced against us. By Your holy body You heal the infectious wounds which harm our bodies.

You are for us the source of life, that which gives life to the whole creation and is full of good things... We offer thanks to You because You make us partake of You, the Holy Fruit and the Tree of Life. And as we take our pleasure in You, we trample under-foot the sinful passions and all the allurements of the evil spirits. We offer You therefore our bodies as a sacrifice without deceit, and our souls as an acceptable offering. Make our minds rise to You as a pure incense and may our conversation be like a sweet perfume, and our silence and our meditation like a spiritual scent.

For all this we beseech You, cleanse us from every stain of sin that we may partake of Your Adorable and Life-giving Mysteries, and come to Your Holy Passover with joy, and go forth to meet You at Your second coming with the garments of glory, so that we may offer praise and thanksgiving with Your saints, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *In the First Half of the Great Fast.*

Coming He comes with joy.

The Fast of our Lord has come.
Beloved, let us receive it worthily,
and labour in it earnestly
and accomplish it zealously
and follow it with sincerity,
that we may obtain a true conversion
and inherit life eternal.

Listen to this, all you nations.

Oh, you who are well aware
that the season of the holy Fast has come,
as befit all those who fast,
labour in it earnestly
and celebrate it with sincerity,
that you may be joined with the saints.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Fast is truly an armour,
a shield for full salvation,
with it we can face our enemies,
and defeat our Adversary.
By the Fast we are elevated to heaven,
and united with the angles.

From age to age and foe ever. Amen.

By fasting Nineveh was saved
from the destruction announced by Jonah.
And within the den fast also
sealed the mouths of the lions.
By fasting we are elevated to heaven
and become friends of the angles.

Hymn *In the Second Half of the Great Fast*

We will praise You in the middle of the Assembly.

The days of the Fast are half through
and the passover of our Lord is approaching.
Should we not sorrow and weep over the sea of our sins ?
Come, beloved, ley us not relent in our fast, let us be diligent.
Let us wash away all our sins and by the tears of our eyes
we will inherit life eternal.

The Lord draws near those who call on Him from the heart.

The days of the suffering of our Lord are approaching
by which He makes all sufferings come to an end. The Resurrection
of the Son is coming, when the ship reaches the harbour.
Come let us pray for graciousness while we are in this life,
with supplication, and fasting and tears of repentance.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord our Lord, it is out of love that You came
as the meditator between us and Your Father.
You redeemed us by Your Passion and Death on the Cross.
You reconciled us with Him by Your blood.
Be pleased, by the fasting and the prayers of Your servants,
Beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Moses the Prophet set up the brazen Serpent in the middle of the camp,
and it gave healing to all who looked at it with faith.
In the middle of the Church is the Cross, the standard of victory,
which gives life to all who put their trust in it.
Let us praise and worship the Cross, the Life-giving Cross,
in which is hope and salvation for all who were lost.

On Wednesday in the Middle of the Fast the following stanza is added:

In the middle of the Holy Fast let Your Name be blessed and praised,
who in the middle of the earth made our salvation by the crucifixion.

In the middle of the Church praise for ever to You, Christ the King.
In the middle of the Fast it is right to worship Your Cross
in which is hope and salvation for all who were lost.

Here follows the Supplication Song proper to each day, in conclusion of the Forth Watch, followed by the Intercessions and the Trisagion.

Intercessions *On Ferial Days in the First Half Except on Fridays.*

As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with earnestness and compunction of heart,

"Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all".

Christ our God who by Your Holy Fast strengthen us to shake off all sluggishness, and to set our minds on the things of the Spirit, make us to be renewed unceasingly by the Spirit who led You into the desert, we beseech You :

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who opened the door of Your mercy to sinners on account of fasting and repentance, and who purified the sinful woman by compunction of heart with tears, make us to be renewed unceasingly, to partake worthily of Your Passover and to work with You for the renewal of the whole creation, we make supplication to You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who made the face of Moses to shine by fast and holiness, make the Churches who celebrate Your Fast, reflect in their lives Your own light, You who became flesh yet manifested Your glory to Your disciples, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

On behalf of all living creatures who are afflicted and distressed and who look to You for relief, Good Lord, we beg Your compassion and we beseech You earnestly:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

For the peace of the Churches and the reconciliation of all nations, and that true freedom may reign among all people and due reverence be shown

to God. For the coming of good seasons, the cessation of wars and the tranquillity of all holy places, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Christ our God, that we may fulfill these days of the Holy Fast in right living and holiness, so as to carry with us the food of salvation, Christ our true God, and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Intercessions *On Every* Friday of the Great Fast.

As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with grief and compunction of heart,

"Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all".

Christ our God who out of nothing brought everything into being, into order and harmony, make us put off the old nature with its habits, and put on the new nature to be constantly renewed in the image of our Creator, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who after fashioning heaven and earth created Adam on the sixth day, and set him as head over all that is on earth, make us all work with You for the removal of evil, through the creation of communities of ordered and simple life, all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who on this day received spitting, and were struck with a blow, and so annulled the sentence of death which was decreed against us, help us to accept tribulations in communion with You, in the firm faith that any good we have in our nature is Your gift to us, we call upon You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who were crucified for the race of Adam, and thus crucified death and sin and slew the great dragon by Your Cross, make us

to rise from our enslavement to sin, and take part with You in the fulness of the risen life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who entrusted to Your holy apostles and to those who believe in You that they should celebrate the Holy Passover of Your Passion, Death and Resurrection, lead us from the death of sin to life immortal with You, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

For the peace of the Churches and the reconciliation of all nations, that true freedom may reign in the human family, and due reverence be shown to God, for the coming of good seasons, for the cessation of wars and for the tranquillity of all holy places, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Hear, Lord, Your servants who are gathered here in Your Name, and grant them to take part in our Holy Passion by putting to death the passions of sin, and by following You who made Yourself nothing, and in obedience accepted even death on the Cross, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Intercessions *In the Second Half of the Great Fast*

As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with grief and deep sorrow of heart, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all".

Christ our God who by fasting taught us to subdue the desires of the flesh and to tread down the passions that prompt us to sin, strengthen us to be delight in the practice of virtues and to bring forth fruits of a true renewal of life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who by the Fast You fasted for us became a model for the Holy Churches that they might learn from You to place upon their people the gentle yoke of fasting, by it may our minds be raised to meditation on things spiritual and heavenly, we entreat You earnestly:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

On behalf of all living creatures who are afflicted and distressed, and who look to You for relief, Good Lord, we beg Your Compassion and beseech You and pray earnestly:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

For the peace of the Churches and the reconciliation of all nations and that true freedom may reign all over the world, and due reverence be shown to God, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

For the coming of good seasons, the cessation of wars and the tranquility of all holy places, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, do not disregard the cry which we send up to You from the depths of our hearts on these holy days of the Fast. Incline Your Graciousness to the grief of our souls, by which we confess our sins before You and ask for forgiveness. Strengthen us by Your grace that we may complete the Fast and come to its end, bringing from it the full wealth of goodness which You have in it, and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Hymn of Saint Athanasius *On Sundays and Festivals.*

As the angles and the archangels sing praise, like them we offer praise while we say at all times and in all seasons:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace, tranquility and good hope among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we adore You,
we sing a hymn of praise to You.

We give thanks to You because of Your great glory,
Lord, our Creator, King of heaven, God the Father Almighty.

Lord God, Only Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God and Word of the Father,
who take away the sin of the world, be gracious to all.

You who take away the sin of the world
incline Your ear to us and receive our prayers.

You who sit in glory at the right hand of Your Father,
have compassion on us and be gracious to all.

Because You only are holy, You only, Lord Jesus Christ,
with the Holy spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

At all times and on all the days of our life
we bless You and we praise Your name,
holy and blessed for ever, who is and remains for ever and ever.

Blessed are You, Lord, Upholder of All, God of our Fathers,
Your name is blessed and glorified with praises, for ever and ever.

To You belong glory, to You belong praise,
to You belongs honour, God of all, Father of truth,
with the Son, the Only One, and the Life-giving Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p. 8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

First Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Cana
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp *Before the service if convenient.*

Doxology Glory be to the the Father .....(page 3)

Opening Prayer

O God who alone accomplish great wonders, You performed Your first miracle by changing water into good wine when You were invited to the wedding feast. Grant that like the guests assembled there, we may be filled with the wonder of Your wisdom, and Your hearts may be drunk with the wine of Your love, and we will offer praise to You, the True Bridegroom and Worker of Miracles, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, my soul...

RESPONSE

How many are Your works, O Lord.
With wisdom You made them all.
The earth is filled with Your creatures
and the sea is swarming with living beings great and small.

You breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life
and he became a living creature.
The spirit of all flesh is your gift.
Send forth Your Holy Spirit that we may be renewed.

Psalm 77 (76) I cry aloud to God...

RESPONSE

We remeber Your deeds, O Lord.
We remember Your wonders of old.
We meditate on Your works.
We ponder over Your mighty deeds.

Christ the King as You changed water into good wine,
at Cana- in- Galilee You filled the guests with wonder
and they sang the praise of your power,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation.

Evening Psalm We call upon You, Lord, hear us...page 5

RESPONSE

Glory to You, Christ, Light of the world.
Your word is the light of our life.
Your deeds enlighten our path.
Your will is our heritage, for ever the joy of our hearts.

Christ who were invited to Cana-in-Galilee
and by Your power changed water into wine,
purify our minds and our hearts with the spiritual wine
which is given by the knowledge of Your truth.

Most High who for our salvation humbled Yourself
and when invited to the wedding feast with the people of the earth
changed water into good wine,
the people drank of it and they cried out,
"Come, let us bow down and adore him".

Glory to Christ who as a man was invited
to the wedding feast in the town of Cana-in-Galilee
and there changed water into good wine.
The people drank of it and they cried out,
"Blessed is He at whose command things come into being".

We offer praise, thanksgiving, honour and adoration
to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
and we beseech Him that He will help us

at the beginning of this holy season,
that we may observe a fast which will be pleasing to Him.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Eternal Word who, being God, made Himself to be seen on earth and mingled with people, and at the wedding feast at Cana-in-Galilee changed water into good wine, and made the Holy Church to drink of the wine of His love, and by His precious Cross delivered her from her enemies. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

To You belongs praise and thanksgiving, Jesus our God, Maker of the world and Fashioner of all creatures, Word without beginning, who planted Paradise and placed in it the tree of life, You who without changing, showed Yourself at the end of time, and by Your poverty enriched our race. In every place Your blessings have flowed forth like the waters and Your abundant gifts have spread over the whole world. The earth which You trod was blessed, and rational beings were changed by Your word. Your graciousness drove you even to attend a wedding here below. You were bidden to the feast at Cana like other people while You are He who calls and makes all things come into existence. You appeared among men as a man, but as God You threw them in amazement by Your wonders. As the bridegroom was short of the earthly goods, in Your wealth, O Heavenly Bridegroom, You saved his good name. The guests united to praise You and to make known Your wonders. Your Mother rejoiced because her request was fulfilled. Your glory was manifested and your disciples believed in You.

And with them we beseech You now, in memory of Your first miracle, to change our hard times into times of blessings, filled with joy so that our mouths may resound with hymns of divine praise. Deliver us from the bitter wine of sorrow and make us partake of the spiritual cup of Your holy love. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

O Lord, You ordered the servants to fill the jars with water.
And as You stretched out Your hand and blessed them,
the water was changed into good wine.
O our Saviour, the Church Your bride,
the spouse whom You took from the midst of the peoples,
is figured by the bridge of Cana.
It is she whom You rejoice with the true wine of your love.

O Source of Life poured out for the people of the earth,
when You were invited as a man to the feast of Cana,
and when the wine was lacking, O Jesus the True Vine,
as God without the aid of a vine,
You changed water into good wine
and gave joy to the poor husband by making his feast rich.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Behold ! The Fast stands at the door, Jesus himself calls us.
Come, beloved, let us go forth to meet him.
Let us open the doors of our bodies and purify our thoughts
so that He may enter and dwell in our hearts.
It is thus that our faults are pardoned and our sins effaced.
And we inherit the Kingdom and joy with the saints.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Behold ! The Fast has come which crowns its participants.
Let us meet him with our gifts, the right dispositions and a strong
determination, without which we cannot face the Enemy.
Let us meet the Fast with joy and receive him as we should.
We will acquire wings of the Spirit
which will take us to the heavens.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Heavenly Bridegroom, when You were invited
to the wedding of a bridegroom here below,
You filled with wonder the guests by Your first miracle
which You performed by changing water into wine.

Accept this incense of Your worshippers which we offer to You
on this holy and solemn day of Your first miracle.
Grant that we may be worthy of Your spiritual feast,
and make us ready for that marriage feast of joy.
And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving
and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Christ who came and changed the water into good wine
change our hearts, Lord, making us to pass from evil to good.

Create a new heart in us, O God, a new and steadfast spirit.
Make us willing to obey You and give us the joy of Your salvation.

The Son of God was invited to a feast at Cana-in-Galilee
and He went with his disciples and His Mother.
And when at the feast the wine of the bridegroom was finished
the Lord designed to show forth His creative power.

His creative will turned to the water pots.
He poured into them a pure essence, not coming from the grape.
He performed a sacred sign upon the plain water
which they contained, changing it into good wine.

The guests were astonished at the scent of this water
which had taken a sweet savour and a lovely colour.
The wine offered by the bridegroom made the guests drunk
but the wine of Christ was praised by those at the feast.

Glory to the Good One who when invited at the feast
manifested His power by changing the water into good wine.
Thanksgiving to the Father who grants us to be renewed by Him.
Adoration to the Holy Spirit.
And on us his graciousness at all times.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
By His acts He manifests His power to His people,
that He might give them the heritage of the nations.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Your testimony is greater than that of John, our Lord,
Your works testify that the Father is with You.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

John 2: 1-11 At Cana Jesus changes water into wine.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all".

Christ our God who are the source of all life and of all renewal in the creation, plant your word deep within us and fill our hearts with wonder for your love for us, that we may follow closely in your footsteps, you who are the way, the truth and the life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who changed water into good wine for the people of Cana, help our people and the needy millions all over the world to obtain adequate supplies of water, that all may quench their thirst, and food may be produced for all, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all

over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace of the Churches and the serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, grant us by a renewed faith in You and by the testimony of good works, to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Passover, Your Blessed Passion, Your Death and Resurrection, that we may be found worthy of the wedding feast which does not come to an end, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin...p. 9

Night Psalm Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE
With those from on high, the great powers of the angles,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You as we say:
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures".

With the Winged Creatures we bless You.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, Lover of Humankind.
With the angles we worship You and we offer our adorations.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

When our Lord went to Cana with His disciples,
as it is written, He changed water into the best wine.
Glory to Him, the Creator of all creatures.

Through the miracle of Cana the Good News is confirmed
that the Saviour of the world has come.
Glory to You, the Creator of all creatures.

Bridegroom and guests at Cana sang praise to the Son of God
and the Church and all her people cry out:
"Glory to Him, the Creator of all creatures".

It is good to offer honour and praise, worship and adoration
to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 119 (118): 1-16 Blessed are those whose way is blameless.

RESPONSE
Happy are those whose life is blameless,
who seek You with all their heart,
who are happy to do Your will
and always hold to Your word.

They will not be put to shame
those who rejoice to do Your will
and take their delight in Your word.
They will thank You in sincerity of heart.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His love and care for humankind descended from heaven and in His Economy appeared on earth to perform might deeds and wonders befitting God, and to bestow manifold benefits on His creation. He cleansed the lepers, gave strength to the paralysed and raised the dead. He slept on a cushion like a son of man while those above and those below proclaim the strength of His dread power. Him we also, His sinful servants, worship and confess and praise, because of all the wonders that He has done for us and we offer Him our adorations, bowing our heads before Him at this time of the night vigil...

Hidden and Inscrutable Being, Eternal and Infinite Light, Glorious and Incomparable Epiphany, Good physician and Nurse of our souls and bodies who called and came to us in Your mercy, to You, Lord, we lift up our eyes at this time of the night that You may turn to us in the abundance of Your mercy. You are He who cleansed the lepers and opened the eyes of the blind and gave strength to the paralysed and bestowed on them forgiveness of sins. You are He who converted sinners and who justified the publican and received the prodigal son. You are He who at the marriage feast changed the nature of the water to good wine. You are He

who blessed a little bread and multiplied it and satisfied the multitudes, and provided for the hungry by Your divine teaching. You are He who banished our diseases and healed our sicknesses and composed for our help parables that reveal to us the mysteries of salvation. You are He who gave water to the Samaritan woman. And on him who had been beaten by thieves, in Your love for humankind, You had compassion and restored him with wine and oil, and by Your suffering, not for any fault, innocent and life-giving suffering, You redeemed him.

We beg of You, our Lord, in Your graciousness, heal our diseases both concealed and manifest, and by Your divine knowledge give light to the blindness of our minds. Strengthen the paralysis of our souls as well as of our bodies and make them firm. Forgive our offences and sins, drive out the attacks of the Enemy from our midst and fill us with faith, hope and love. Make us worthy to complete the unseen warfare of the Holy fast in purity and holiness so that we may come to the Holy Passover and to the glorious Resurrection. And we will praise You with a new praise, and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Glory to the Mighty One who lowered His Majesty
to become a son of man for our salvation,
and at the wedding at Cana-in-Galilee multiplied the wine.
All those who were at table drank and sang praise to Him.

Mary said to the Creator, the Son of her womb,
"There is no wine left for the bridegroom and the guests".
By a sacred sign the water in the jars was changed.
Without any grapes it was made into wine.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

You made wine out of water, O our Saviour, out of compassion.
Son of God and Creator who became man,
set our hearts on fire with Your love
and make us always walk in Your ways, O Lord of all.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, make us drunk with the good wine of Your love
that Your Gospel may live in our hearts in all its richness
and everything we do or say be done in Your Name,
giving thanks through You to God the Father.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 119(118) : 17-32 Listen to Your servant and I shall live...

RESPONSE
Bless Your servants that they may have life,
that we may always live by Your word.
Take the veil from our eyes that we may see
the marvels that flow from Your law.

We have chosen the path of truth.
We keep Your decrees before our eyes
that we may run the way of Your commandmebts,
for they gladden our hearts.

Glory to the Son of the Good who while He was God by nature
became truly a son of man and gladdened us by His miracles.
Come, all you peoples, let us bow down and adore Him.

O Good One who at the feast changed the water into wine,
make us turn away from evil, and remove the scars of our sins,
that we offer thanks and adorations to You and sing Your praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Heavenly physician who in His goodness visited His creation and healed the diseases of His creatures in His gentleness, to the Exalted one who in His compassion descended and became a fountain of healing for the sick and a source of relief and of cure for those in pain on account of His loving-kindness. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

God the word, Most High, who out of Your fulness dispense good things to Your creation, Rich One to whose treasure there is no end, Sea of Mercy whose benefits are without end, Abyss of Compassion whose gifts are beyond telling, Blessed Fountian whose flow is never cut off, Source of Blessings whose fulness is never lessened, O Merciful Lord, as You gave joy to the guests at the marriage feast by the wine which came from the water, as You comforted the lepers by the cleansing of their flesh, and the paralystics by the strengthening of their bones, and the blind by the opening of their eyes, and the sick by the healing of their diseases, and those in pain by the curing of their wounds, and Zacchaeus by receiving him, and the centurion by restoring his son, and the ruler of the synagogue by his daughter, and us You gave joy to the woman who was afflicted by giving health to her body, and the Canaanite woman by the cure of her daughter, and the mother-in-law of Peter by driving out her fever, and the widow by the raising of her son, and the sinful woman by the forgiveness of her sins, and Mary and Martha by the raising of their brother, so give joy and gladness to Your Churches by the fair order of their assemblies, by the earnestness and intensity of their life, by the watchfulness and zeal of their pastors, by the care and discretion of their priests, by the honour and the purity of their deacons, by the unity and loving concord of their people, that all of them in their assemblies may offer praise and thanksgiving with gratitude to You and through You and with You to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

He who supports our race by a gesture of His command
and who governs the whole creation by the power of His rule
willed to recline at the banquet to which he was invited
Like the Lord He presided over all and performed a wonder.
As His mother said to Him that there was no wine,
He commanded and made wine out of water by a miracle.

Invite us, our Lord, to the feast full of good things,
to that banquet of delight to which the just are called.
And as You multiplied the wine for the wedding guests,
in Your graciousness, multiply for us the abundance of Your gifts

and gladden us with peace and tranquility.
Comfort us with seasons of rejoicing
that we may thank You for Your gifts, O Great Lover of Humankind.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

To You be praise, O Son equal to the Father in all things,
who out of love became man for our salvation,
and went about in the land of Judah with the sons of men.
While You are God by nature, and that is what You are,
in Your Graciousness You accepted the invitation to the wedding
But as God You surpassed all by the powers You showed there.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

O Good One, when you blessed the water in the jars at Cana,
the city of Galilee, all of a sudden there was wine.
In Your goodness, our Lord, bless the crown of the year
with rains and plentiful dew and showers of peacefulness.
Protect the Churches and deliver the believers from all evil,
and make your peace and tranquillity reign in the whole world.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p. 11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord to our departed...p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.13

Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who changed water into wine,

Change our hearts, Lord, from evil to good.

Blessed is Christ who in His love
descended and was seen walking in the land of Judah.
He performed miracles and mighty deeds,
and rejoiced the whole creation.

At Cana-in-Galilee, at a wedding,
there was a great wonder and marvel
when He was invited to the feast,
the Lord of all creatures.

He commanded the water like the Creator
and changed it into delicious wine
to satisfy the need of the bridgegroom.
And the guests were astonished and filled with marvel.

All of us for whom He multiplies his gifts,
let us offer glory to His Being.
All of us who feed on His goodness
let us praise Him for His bounty towards us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who changed water into wine.

Change our hearts, Lord, from evil to good.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angles and the archangels sing praise, like them we offer...p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

First Monday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father.....(page.3)

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches...p.3

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms and Responses *From the common Evening Prayers p.4*

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Great Maker and Preserver of the worlds, who made fasting a treasury of blessings and a glorious ladder for the children of earth by which they may ascend on high. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord God who are good and merciful, we ask help from You for this spiritual warfare in virtue and self-control during these holy days of fasting. We beg and beseech You, O Lover of Man, Father and Sender of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Author and Perfector and Crowner of this warfare, strengthen us all by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that with good zeal and readiness of mind, with patience and fortitude we may run the holy race of the Fast. Grant us, Lord, that with watching and alertness, with holiness and purity, with abstinence and discipline of body, soul and spirit, by prayers and supplications and tears of penitence we may wash away every stain of sin. By this Fast which Your Holy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, taught us, we may train ourselves zealously. And as we approach its harbour gladly, with joy,

in purity and holiness, we will say: "Come in peace, Holy Fast, Skilled Physician who drive out and heal all diseases. Come in peace, Holy Fast, Wondrous Way which leads up to heaven".

Therefore we beg and beseech You, Lord our God, to make us worthy to receive this Holy Fast with Joy. By it, may we do Your will continually and complete the number of its days in holiness. And with all the noble fasters who were pleasing to You, we will praise and exalt You, and Your Beloved Son, and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Paul wrote of that love greater than which there is nothing.
Blessed is he who loves, for by love he sees the Lord.
By love Moses saw Him upon the mountain.
By love the martyrs saw Him in the court and in the arena.
By love the Church saw Him on the summit of the Cross
and she sings praise to Him day and night with holy love.

For forty days and forty nights Moses fasted and prayed
and he obtained the Law that revealed to Man the will of God.
For forty days and forty nights Jesus fasted and prayed
and He gave us the power to overcome evil and to do the will of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, we share in Your Holy Fast which teaches us humility,
remembering that we shall be judged for the evil we have done,
but also for all the good we have neglected or omitted,
above all for not loving our brothers and sisters, as You taught us to do.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

As it is written God rejoices and is pleased
by holy fasting with love and all virtuous deeds.
This is confirmed by Daniel the exile in the land of Babylon
who was raised on the chariot of fire, and by Moses on Sinai.
Blessed is He who is pleased and gladdened by fast and prayer.
Halleluia, may He be always gracious to us.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

In Your tender love for our human nature, our Lord,
receive this incense which we make to ascend before You at this time
and may our way of life delight You like a fragrant odour,
and our fasting and our prayer like a chosen incense.

And grant us to complete this Holy Fast in holiness,
and by Your goodness, may we and the whole human family
be made partakers of the good things that do not pass away,
and there offer fair praises assiduously and without ceasing
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Hymn

Come, beloved, let us celebrate the Holy and Pure Fast
which our Lord performed for us.
Beloved, let us be earnest in it and complete its course
in purity and holiness, halleluia, and true service.

Come in peace, Blessed Fast, treasury full of all good things.
By you the children of men learn restraint.
By you the needy become rich.
Blessed is He who gave you to us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to the Son of God who became man,
from a daughter of man who was pleasing to Him.
He fasted for forty days and forty nights, halleluia,
and overpowered Satan who had come to tempt Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is Christ who by His Fast
gave victory to His Church and gave her the strength
to wage battle against the Evil One, halleluia,
and defeat his treachery. Blessed is His Fast.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Make us worthy, Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast of purity which is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

Elijah the Prophet fasted and it is not written that he was hungry.
The Lord of the prophets fasted of His own will and was hungry,
as He willed.
He fasted and was hungry, weary and tired as a weak man.
He was exhausted by hunger and vigils, because He willed.

This gave hope to the Evil One to put Him to shame,
believing that His weakness would help to His defeat.
His hunger opened the door for the Devil to attack Him.
Had he not seen Him hungry, he might not have set on Him.

He saw Christ beginning the fast and striving hard.
This prompted him to fall upon the Athlete.
But he found Him mysteriously acquainted with the unseen warfare
and was cast down, struck by the power of His Divinity.

Glory to the Father who sent His Son for our salvation.
Adoration to the Son who by His fast defeated the Evil One.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who put the Adversary to shame,
in the contest. And on us His love at all times. Amen. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia...p.8

Matthew 4: 1-11 The Fast and Temptation of Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

FIRST MONDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.3

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.3

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angles to make a joyful noise
singing the threefold hallowing: Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
make us also, earthly ones, keep vigil to praise You with them.
Glory to you, glory to you, glory to you, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

A spiritual treasure is opened during this holy season.
Away with all negligences in these days of atonement.
Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Let the sweet scent of the Lord's Fast take hold of us.
Our Lord fasted for us, let us fast with Him for our purification.
Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Beloved, let us watch over ourselves during this Holy Season,
and be among the diligent servants who make the Master's talents increase.

Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Let us not be disheartened if we fall, the Lord is with us
and He keeps for us the reward to be given when He comes in glory.
Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who is One is Three and the Three are One.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him all praise, and on us His love and compassion.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 7 Lord God, I take refuge in You my Saviour....

RESPONSE

Lord, we take refuge in You:
From our pursuer save us and rescue us,
lest he tear us to pieces like a lion,
and drag us off with no one to rescue us.

Awake, beloved, and let us be watchful.
Our adversary the Devil, like a roaring lion
prowls around looking for some one to devour.
Let us stand up to him, always firm in our faith.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Mighty and Strong who alone is good, and who bestows, His gifts freely. When He shows anger, it is that we may repent, for He Himself is without passions. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord our God, Sea of Goodness and Fountain of Mercies, who are gentle and kind to those who repent and the Lover of those who turn to You, do not turn away from us on account of our evil deeds. O Gentle One, have mercy. Forgive us. Your servants, who in the sorrow of repentance

pray before You. Watch over us. Purify us and hallow us, Make us true penitents and fair images of Your Gospel of love. Deliver us from evil... and make us and all the true believers who have followed You in Your Passover, worthy of the Church which is on high that they, and we with them, may offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Who can ever think of a judge having power of death
going after the culprit who is turning away from Him?
Yet such is God. When He pronounces judgement
He calls sinners to repentance, halleluia, halleluia,
that they may obtain pardon and life which never ends.

Lord, who made heaven and earth to be good through Your Cross,
and in Your love reconciled the whole creation,
give peace to the earth which is groaning under pain and suffering
and remove all divisions from Your followers, halleluia, halleluia,
that they may worship You all together with faith and love.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, do not chasten us according to our misdeeds.
May the just who loved You intercede for us,
O Lord of the just who graciously do their will.
By their prayers, hear our supplications, halleluia, halleluia,
By the prayer of Your friends save us and deliver us from all evil.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

God who heard the prayers of the Ninevites
and saved their city from destruction,
hear the prayers of Your Churches, Good Lord,
and save them from all that threatens them, halleluia, halleluia,
that they may rejoice and sing praise to You at all times.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Make us worthy, our Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast of purity which is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

May Your love plead for our wretchedness, O Son of God.
Enlighten us that we may address You fittingly.
On account of our meanness we are unable to speak to You becomingly,
though in Your love You made us Your brothers.

Help us to overcome our failings and to make up for our offences.
Grant us to know ourselves, to know what we really are.
May Your love speak to us words of sweetness.
Give us life, in Your boundless goodness,
and make Your love shine forth on us and transform us.

Though our wretchedness is not worthy to praise You
who created us in Your graciousness, we dare say.
It is not a small thing that Your compassion did for us.
In Your graciousness You created us.
In Your graciousness You saved us.
In Your graciousness You showed compassion on us.
In Your graciousness You have pity us.
We then sing praise to You, our Lord,
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 9: 1-15 I thank You, Lord, with all my heart...

RESPONSE

The Lord who was reigned from all eternity
has set up his for judgement.
He who rules over the world with justice
will judge the people with equity.

The Father has given the Son the full right to judge.
He has appointed Him judge of the living and the dead.
"Whoever believes in Me, says Jesus, has eternal life.
He will not be judged, He has passed from death to life".

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Good Lord who has compassion on sinners and takes pleasure in those who repent and turn to Him, the Rich one who loves the poor who entreat Him and rejoices in those who knock at His door. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

O God You are a fountain of blessings for those who knock at the door of repentance and seek the favour of Your goodness. We then in our weakness turn to You in deep repentance. Have compassion on us, Lord, in Your great love. Watch over us and help us to eradicate selfishness and to turn away from all deceit and untruth. Bind us by your pure and holy love, that we may seek You and cleave to You alone. And while we receive deliverance from our sins, make us worthy to be found among those who work for justice, for the upholding of the dignity of man and of human rights against all forms of oppression. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Merciful Lord, do not deal with the world according to justice alone.
Do not fall on Your servants who have gone astray.
Let not Your righteousness cut you off from us.
In Your compassion, be gracious to Your people,
and make justice and peace join hands, love and truth embrace.

Good one who in the days of old opened Your treasure-house
to all those who turned to You, open the door of Your mercy
to the prayers of Your servants who call upon You.
Give them the forgiveness of all offences
which they have committed out of carelessness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Answer us Lord, in Your great love for humankind
and pardon our faults and sins in Your infinite goodness.
As You did to the labourers who worked in Your vineyard,
give us, workers of the eleventh hour, the whole day's wage.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Be gracious to us, O God, we entreat You,
let us not enter into temptation.
We beg Your compassion, Merciful Lord, forgive our faults
and let Your mercy make up for our weakness.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who delivered us by Your Fast.

Christ who fasted for our sake,
let us never fall away from Your love.

We beg of You, O God, in Your goodness, be gracious to us,
We beseech You, O Sea of Compassion, be gracious to all.
In the beginning You created us out of the dust of the soil,
but You fashioned us in the image of Your own being.

You placed us in the Garden of Bliss,
expecting us to be diligent labourers for You.
Praise, honour and glory we offer to the Holy Trinity and to Him, who
stood in the house of judgement for us and who forgive our our offences.

Christ who fasted for our sake, let us never fall away from Your love.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

Who can strengthen our weakness
except the Christ, the Good Physician?
He is the Restorer of all health
and comforts all those who are afflicted.
Lord, be the Restorer of our souls which are labouring under sin.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the One God, the Creator, the One Merciful Lord who is known in three holy persons, the One True God. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We make supplication to You, Lord God, forgive the wicked... draw near those who are far off. Have compassion on sinners, Gather those who are dispersed. Guard those who are dispersed. Guard those who are near. Turn those who are in error to the knowledge of the truth. Restrain the impure and the licentious and remove from us all permissiveness. Relieve the oppressed. Heal the sick. Blind the wounded. Comfort the broken-hearted. Raise up the fallen. Provide for the poor. Encourage those who are sad at heart and gladden the penitent. Perfect the chaste. Be with the just and the holy. Dwell with the patient. Give peace to those in trouble. Settle conflicts and strengthen the Churches to witness to the Gospel. Remove from them schisms and disputes and all destructive rivalries. Make peace and tranquillity dwell in them all over the world. Give rest and a good remembrance to all those who have followed You in Your Passover, in true faith and in Your hope, that we and that they may offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The tears offered by the sinner wash away his debts.
Take tears with you, O sinner, and call on your Lord.
Hearing your groanings He will quickly forgive you
and make you experience His love.

Son of God who open Your door to the good and the wicked,
open Your door to our repentance and pardon us.
Receive our prayers and our fast, O Lover of Man, like the prayers
and fast of the Ninevites who found mercy with You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Woe to us who defile our liberty and our free will
after leaving the good things of our Father's house.
We are now famished and we long for the husks of the swine.
We have sinned against heaven and against You, Lord.
Be gracious to us.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed are you, Churches, for the words of the Son are Your light.
The powers of death will never prevail against you, for He has given you
His body as food and His blood the cup of salvation,
for the forgiveness of your children.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
You who have compassion on sinners,
have compassion on us on the day of Your judgement.

And forgive us our offences,
in the abundance of Your love.

Our Lord, may our prayer and our supplication
be for us a sweet scent ascending before Your throne.
And make Your peace and tranquility and gentle love
reign in Your Churches, from now and ever.

May our fast pleasing to You, O Good and Gentle One.
May our prayer enter into Your presence, O Compassionate One.
In Your graciousness receive our requests
and hear our supplications in the abundance of Your love.

O Heavenly King, we knock at Your door
to obtain from You the forgiveness of our offences.
Make Your peace and tranquility reign among us
that we may sing praise to You by night and by day.

You who have compassion on sinners,
forgive us our offences in the abundance of Your love.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia.... Be compassionate towards us...p.13 *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens... p. 16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences... p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who delivered us by Your Fast.

Christ who fasted for our sake let us never fall away from Your love.

Exalted One who became a son of man
and who fasted like Moses and Elijah, because of You,
when we abstain from food, we obtain Your food,
the food of salvation and we become like angles.

Son of God who by Your Fast
showed that You had become a son of man,
we, by Your Fast, become spiritual
as we subdue the passions of the flesh.

Lord, strengthen us with Your strength
for the encounter with the Evil One.
and receive the supplications of Your worshippers,
that our fast may be well pleasing to You.

Praise to You and to Him who sent You,
Christ who fasted for our sake.
In this word and in the world to come,
in both worlds, be gracious to all.

Christ who fasted for our sake, let us never fall away from Your love.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer P.22

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

First Tuesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father... (page - 3)

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord our Maker.

Psalms and Responses *From the Common Evening Prayers* p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Fashioner and Preserver of the whole creation who orders and marks the times of day by light, and of night by darkness, the Ruler over evening and morning. Him let us praise and glorify and exalt, at this time of evening...

In many ways and in many manners do You assist and enlighten this world which was created by You, Christ our God. In the morning of the day You gladden it with beams of light. In the evening You irradiate it with shining lamps of flame which are made of oil and fire. At night again You clothe it in the rays of the moon and in the glorious course of the stars with unspeakable beauty.

We beseech You, Lord, that while you bestow these on us, Your gifts, You will also make the souls of Your servants worthy to shine fervently with the pure and unapproachable light of Your knowledge and wisdom. Scatter the darkness of untruth, of deceit and sin which make their

way into our hearts, and purify us by obedience to the truth. Arm us with zeal filled with reverence. Pierce and transfix our flesh with reverence for You. Inflame our souls with Your love. And while You purify us, Your servants, in every way, and make us holy in body, soul and spirit, seal us with the true and indelible marks of Your discipleship. And while we come to understand more clearly how great and incomparable are Your helps to our poor selves, we will offer unceasing praise, continual honour and pure adoration to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Beloved, let us consider how we should celebrate the Fast of Jesus and make good use of it to purify soul and spirit with the body, that we may live up to the Gospel and the Sermon on the Mount, never compromising with the truth and always holding up *ahimsa.*

Let us burst the bonds of wickedness, share our bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless, and give our clothes to those who are in need and never evade a duty to our neighbour, but set him free and make plain for him the way to the Kingdom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

By prayer and fast Jesus overcome the works of evil in us.
By prayer and fast Jesus obtains light and strength for us.
Prayer and fast open the door to God's grace.
They soften our hearts and make us radiate His light.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

By fast the prophets and holy men of old overcome the Adversary
and walked through the flames of fire. By prayer and holy fast
they obtained the victory. They entered and inherited the blessed
ness which eye has not seen and ear of flesh has not heard.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ our God who in Your Economy for our salvation
fasted for our sake, we beseech You,
by the sweet savour of this incense
that You will accept our fasting and our prayer.

Grant that we may run the race of the unseen warfare
with earnestness and devotion, so that we may always
offer pure praises and adorations
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Make us worthy, our Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast of purity which is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

Lord, make us worthy to pray before You with a pure heart,
that we may be prepared to receive You worthily.
Come, beloved, let us offer to the Lord the sacrifice of praise
and ponder over His love while recounting all His wonders.

Make us turn to You with unreserved surrender,
and realize our utter dependence on Your grace.
Through this holy fast make us feast on Your love,
as true sons of Your Father and brothers to all people.

Glory to the Father who made the worlds out of nothing.
Adoration to the Son by whom all things are made and subsist.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit without whom nothing comes into existence.
To Him who is one nature and three persons, all praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Genesis 2:5-25 Creation of Adam. Creation of Eve.
Genesis 6:5-12 The wickedness of humankind.
James 1:5-8 Wisdom obtainable through prayer to God

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia...The word of God is alive...p.8
Matthew 5:17-26 Fulfilment of the Law and reconciliation.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.3

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.3

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

Awaken us and raise us up from the sleep of slothfulness
to the praise of Your Majesty, Lord God.

Your Graciousness has awakened us to praise You at night,
grant us forgiveness of our offences, Lord God.

We knock at Your door, asking for mercy and compassion
from the treasury of Your riches, Lord God.

Cleanse and purify us by tears of repentance
from all stains of sin, Lord God.

By Your Fast, our Saviour, You taught us to fast in purity, that by it
we may defeat Satan and become worthy of the Kingdom, Lord God.

You fasted for our sake and you taught us to fast like you,
and tempted by Satan You brought to an end his rule over us.

Praise and thanksgiving to the One Being Exalted and Adorable,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Mystery of the Trinity.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 12 (11) Save, Lord, for good men have vanished...

RESPONSE

Truth has gone from the sons of men.
The words of the Lord alone are pure words,
they are silver refined in the crucible,
like gold seven times purified.

Our new birth is not from any mortal seed,
but from the living and eternal word of God.
If you make my word your home you are my disciples, says Jesus,
you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Door of mercy which is open to sinners, to the Harbour of Life awaiting the mortal ones, to the Cleansing Hyssop which purifies those who are stained and yearns for the penitent. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord Almighty, God Everlasting, Creator and Giver of Life to all flesh, You created man in Your image and gave him a law that he might live a life without blame. And after he had sinned, out of goodness, You gave him the pledge by grace that he should rise again. Now, Lord, turn to Your servants who have bent the neck of their souls and bodies in sorrow before You. Receive them according to Your love for humankind, because You do not desire the death of the sinner but that in penitence he may turn from his evil way and live... You are He who received the tears of the adulterous woman and the repentance of Zacchaeus the publican and the faith of the thief. You are He who wills that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. You are He who received the prodigal son who had squandered his possessions, and You had compassion on him and poured on him Your forgiving love.

Therefore, O Lord, receive our penitence and make us stand before You without shame. Bestow on us the pardon of our faults and make us experience Your love. Give rest to all the believers who have followed You in Your Passover, that we and they may offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Sins and offences have found their way to us.
Forgive us, we beseech You, O Compassionate One.
We come to You with sighs of repentance.
Be gracious to us and gladden us with Your joy.

May our prayer be pleasing to You, Good Lord and Gracious Father.
Let our petition enter into Your presence. Open quickly
the treasure of Your graciousness to our supplications,
for in You is our hope and all our trust.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Praise for Your goodness and thanksgiving for Your kindliness,
Good Lord who do not hold back Your graciousness.
Give heed to our prayer as to the prayer of the Ninevites,
our Lord, and be reconciled with us, O Good and gentle One.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

This world is passing away, its pleasures come to an end.
Its beauty withers away, its gains do not last,
Blessed is he who works diligently in purity of heart,
he will receive his reward on the day of the resurrection.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Make us worthy, our Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast in purity such as is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

O sinner, have pity on your soul so full of beauty.
By your own will it remains entanlged in evil passions.
It is not thieves or robbers that strip you of the divine image,
but you who allow it to be sullied by your evil desires.

Rise up now as the prodigal son and seek so as to find.
Even now the Creator expects to find His image in you.
The Son of God redeemed it for a great price,
the costly sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb without blemish.

Son of God who redeemed Your image with Your own blood,
restore now in us its divine beauty, that You may rejoice
in Your Churches, as in the creation at the beginning
and they will sing praise to You, Lord, with the spiritual beings.

Christ who received the fast of the just and the devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 13 (12) How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for ever?...

RESPONSE
Look now and answer us, Lord our God.
Give light to our eyes lest we sleep the sleep of death,
lest the Adversary say, "I have defeated them",
and our enemies rejoice at our downfall.

"Satan has received permission to test you all,
to separate the wheat from the chaff," says the Lord,
"but I have prayed for you that your faith may not be shaken.
You in turn must strengthen your brothers".

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who is merciful by nature, who pours forth His graciousness on us continually, who took flesh for the sake of sinners, as His holy mouth said: "I came, not to call the righteous but sinners and those who are sick". To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We entreat You, Lord God. We make supplication to You that You may bless Your servants and Your worshippers who are gathered here this night in Your Holy Name. May we be clothed in spiritual armour and arrayed in love and concord, that we may conquer the Evil One and his powers. Take away our faults, in Your graciousness, and make us sit all together at Your spiritual table. And we will offer praise and exaltation to You, Lord, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Beloved, this is the time to obtain mercy.
Let us be reconciled with our Creator and Redeemer.
He is gracious and does and does not hold back His love.
He receives with open arms those who seek refuge in Him.

God, who lowered Your greatness for our mortal race,
and by Your Passion and Death delivered us from evil,
give peace to Your Churches that they may rejoice in You,
singing praise to You and to Your Father and to your Holy Spirit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Beloved, God's love calls for great diligence from our part.
Let us love one another as brothers in Christ.
Let us never fail to welcome strangers in our home.
Some who welcomed strangers did welcome angles without knowing it.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Let faith and hope keep us always joyful,
with untiring work for the Lord and ardour of the Spirit,
not giving up in trials but keeping on praying,
and never repaying evil with evil, but overcoming evil by doing good.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who delivered us by Your Fast.

Christ who fasted for our sake,
let us never fall away from Your love.

With voices broken by suffering,
Your Churches cry to You, O God.
Incline Your ear to their prayers
and in Your love grant their requests.

Receive the tears of those who turn to You, who draw near to You,
in repentance and compunction of heart. May Your heart
always be filled with love for humankind, as when You said,
"Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing".

Praise to You from us, sinners who have turned to repentance,
whom You counted worthy of Your graciousness
and whom You called into Your presence
to gladden their hearts with Your pardon.

Christ who fasted for our sake, let us never fall away from Your love.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

Woe to me who have been called a good and diligent servant,
While in my deeds I am negligent and slothful!
Woe to me who have taught without having learnt;
Who have been a physician and failed to heal myself!
You who are good and whose yoke is light to bear,
make me worthy to grow in love for You.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who is known in Trinity and is praised and exalted in Trinity, and is worshipped in heaven by the angles and by the sons of men on earth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

O God who after fashioning heaven and earth created man, and set him as head over all that is on earth, we offer You, we Your servants, prayers and intercessions for the peace of the world and the reconciliation of all nations. We pray on behalf of all living creatures who are afflicted and oppressed, and who look to You for relief. Make us all work with You for the removal of evil, that the human family may rise from its enslavement to sin, and true freedom may reign among the people. And may justice with love prevail all over the world that we may offer praise and honour to Your Most High Trinity, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

O God; incline Your ear and hear us,
open Your eyes and our helplessness.
We do not call on You on the ground of any right,
we can find refuge only in Your graciousness.

Sinners listen to Your word and turn to You in penitence.
In Your goodness give them the remission of their sins.
Receive, Lord, the prayers and supplications of Your worshippers
and send on them, from Your treasury, mercy and compassion.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

You who went round visiting towns and villages
preaching to all the Good News of the Kingdom
and healing the people from every kind of sickness,
remember Your Church whom You betrothed on the Cross.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord we wish to walk and follow in Your footsteps,
make us to follow You in humble service and in Your Passion,
the Passion of the One Beloved Son of God,
the way for us to share in Your Resurrection.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord who have compassion on sinners,
have compassion on us on the day of Your judgement.

And forgive us our offences,
in the abundance of Your love.

Great is the beauty of prayer by which,
at all times, the heart can rise on high,
offering praise and thanksgiving to God,
for the great marvels of His love for us.

When the disciples saw Jesus praying
and asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray",
He taught them to pray, "Father, forgive our sins",
as we too forgive all those who have done us wrong".

"I say to you, ask and you will receive.
Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened.
For every one who asks receives. He who seeks finds.
And to him who knocks the door is opened".

Lord who have compassion on sinners,
forgive us our offences in the abundance of Your love.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia... Be compassionate towards us...p.13 followed by

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who delivered us by Your Fast.

Christ who fasted for our sake,
let us never fall away from Your love.

Come, beloved, let us be earnest in the unseen warfare.
This is not the time to be careless in our *sadhana.*
The Fast of our Lord is a season for great deeds,
a sacrifice of atonement offered for the whole world,
a prayer for propitiation ascending from all the Churches
as a fragrant incense in the presence of God.

May our community be graced with a fast of atonement,
that there may be a year of peace and of plenty and good health,
and the whole world be blessed with prosperity from above.
heaven giving rain and the earth all the good things we need.

Son of God, may our prayer ascend to Your Majesty,
and obtain forgiveness of offences for Your people.
Remove all distress and make Your Cross be our refuge,
and may we be worthy to praise You in this world and in the next.

Praise, honour and glory we offer to the Holy Trinity
And to Him, who stood in the house of judgement for us
and who forgives us our offences.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer, p.22

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

First Wednesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father... (page - 3)

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches p.3

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker

Psalms and Responses *From the common Evening Prayers,* p.4.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Good Lord and Lover of Man who of His own will inclined Himself towards every creature, and whose abundant love was carried to every quarter, the Dweller on High who is hidden in His person from all and is found in His compassion by all who seek Him. It is good to remember Him and to praise Him, at this time of evening...

Christ our God who caught all God's children in the net of Your Gospel, and gave them laws and commandments that by keeping them they might become true children of the Heavenly Father and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, by your Mighty Fast You set a seal of perfection on those who fast. So now, Lord of Fasting and Receiver of Prayers, receive the fast of your servants, the children of Your Holy Church. Let your Godhead be appeased by the prayers which are sent forth to You from broken hearts. Be reconciled with us, and because our prayer is not sufficient to appease You, be an Advocate Yourself on our behalf, because You are the Sea of Mercy and Goodness. Do not let our sins, Lord, separate us from Your love on that dread day of Your judgement but have pity on us and be

gracious to all. Hear the cry of Your worshippers and let the supplication of those who are in bondage and in distress enter before You. Look upon the tears of the penitent. Incline Your ear to the prayers of those who have done wrong and shed upon them the rain of Your compassion. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Order a fast, says the prophet, proclaim a solemn assembly.
Come back to God with all your heart,
in fasting and prayer and in all good works.
Rend your hearts and not your garments.

Turn back to the Lord Your God
for He is compassionate and ever faithful,
slow to anger and rich in graciousness,
eager to do away with evil, but inclined to relent

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

We are celebrating the Great Fast of our Saviour,
let us share in it with love and dignity,
that we may be enriched by its treasures
and like the noble ones and devotees of old be made resplendent by it.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Fast demands that we break away from evil
and redeem our sins by all virtuous deeds,
supporting the poor and showing mercy to the evil-doer
and thus make peace with all, with God and people.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

O God who did put out for Hananiah and his companions
the flames of the furnace and the blazing fire
and You sprinkled the dew upon their faces,
and You set them on fire with Your love.

Inflame us also with Your love
and grant to Your flock
the pardon of all offences and sins,
O Great Lover of Man, Sea of Goodness and Graciousness.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Make us worthy, our Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast in purity such as is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

On the third day of creation God made the dry land appear,
the sea and the dry land were given their boundaries.
Soon the earth was in travail and brought forth
plants bearing seeds, and flowers, and fruit trees.

On the third day Bride Earth bathed in the deep waters
and coming up out of the water clothed herself beautifully
with the linen garments of blossoms full of wonder.
On this day, as in the third month, flowers and lilies blossom.

On this day all flowers of the spiring offer praise,
seeds from seed-bearing and also the fruits.
The trees and fruits from the valleys and the uplands
give glory to Him who made everything good.

Glory to the Father. Adoration to the Son.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit.
Three persons, three names, one sole being,
the Father not begotten, the Son begotten, the Spirit who proceeds.
Trinity exalted above all, be gracious to all.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Genesis	6 : 11 - 22	Noah the Just.
Joel	1 : 13 - 15 2 : 12 - 16	The prophet's call to repentance on account of God's impending judgement.
James	1 : 12 - 18	Perseverance in tribulation and blessedness.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of the God is alive...p.8
Matthew 5:38-48 *The New Law.*

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy....p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God,...p.9

Night Psalm Bless, Lord ! Come, bless the Lord...p.9

RESPONSE

You who wake and do not sleep,
awaken us to conversion.

By night with the wakeful Ones,
let us offer thanksgiving, adoration and praise.

To the praise and glory of Your Name,
open our lips and lift up our hearts to You.

Make us worthy with the wakeful Ones,
to sing fair praise to You.

Awaken us, our Saviour,
that we may offer praise to You and give thanks to Your Name

Come to our help, our Lord,
that we may fast for You a pure fast

Grant us, Lord our God,
that by our fast we may please You

Open Your door, our Lord,
to our prayer and our supplications.

Glory to Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 16 (15) Preserve me, O God, I take refuge in You...

RESPONSE

Keep us, our God, we take refuge in You,
that You may show us the path of life.
In Your presence there is fulness of joy,
At Your right hand, happiness and bliss for ever.

"In my Father's house there are many places. If it were not so
would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And when I go and have prepared a place for you, I will come again
and take you to Myself, that where I am, you also may be with Me".

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him whose light shines even at night, to that Child who came forth in secret from the heart of the Eternal Father. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord God, in Your everlasting wisdom You divide our earthly life into days and nights, and You never cease to pour forth Your love on the whole world. As You protected and guided Your people at night by a pillar of cloud and fire, so this night, give us the light of Your Knowledge. Bestow on us pure thoughts which are pleasing to You. Endow us with courage and strength which cannot be shaken. Confirm our hearts in hope and by Your holy angles guard us from our enemies. Deliver us from the temptations of the Evil One and make us worthy to shine before

You in spiritual conduct and to thank and praise and exalt and worship Your Majesty, for You are good and powerful and can do all things. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus said, "Stay here while I go over there to pray".
And sadness came over Him and great distress.
"My heart is sorrowful to the point of death.
wait here and keep awake with Me".

Christ who watched and prayed for us,
hear the prayers of those who turn to You with faith.
Incline the ear of Your heart and answer us,
as You heard the blind beggar who asked to see the light.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All merciful Lord, pour Your gifts on this assembly
that by sighs and tears our debts may be effaced.
Grant us to please You as You expect from us, with true faith,
that we may obtain full pardon on the day of Your coming.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Hear us, Lord, in Your graciousness, and in Your goodness make us worthy to behold You when You come with glory in Your Kingdom, to go forth to meet You with beautiful palm branches of glory and to cry out with the saints, "Blessed is He who comes".

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us
Make us worthy, our Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast in purity such as is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

"Be on your guard and stay awake," says Jesus,
because you do not know when the time will come.
It is like a man who goes away from home,
leaving his servants in charge each with his own task."

"Stay awake then because you do not know
when the Master of the house is coming.
When He comes suddenly He should not find you asleep.
What I say to you, My disciples, I say to all, 'Stay awake.'

Lord, give us the strength to restrain our passions
and make us free from the hidden desires of our soul.
Let us not be led astray by bitter feelings,
that our love for You may be real, from the heart.
And may Your commandments be life to us.

Praise to You, our Lord, who so loved the race of Adam
that after they had sinned You humbled Yourself
unto death on the Cross to draw them to Yourself.
Glory to You from the just and from the sinners and from the penitents
whom You draw back to Yourself through conversion.

Christ who received the fast of the just and the devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place for ever...p.11

Psalm 17 (16) Hear, a just cause, O Lord, and give heed...

RESPONSE

I am here and I call, here me, O God.
Turn Your ear to us, hear our words.
Remember Your great love, You whose right hand
saves Your friends from those who fight against them.

In His life on earth Jesus made prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears to be saved from the grave.
Because He submitted so humbly, His prayer was heard.
God's Son, He learnt to be obedient by means of suffering.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Sun of Righteousness who justifies sinners who knock at the door of His mercy, the Sun of Everlasting Light who enlightens the world through His wisdom. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration. at this time of the night vigil...

Gracious Lord who when You were on earth with Your disciples spent whole nights in prayer to God, grant us to rejoice and be glad to praise You during this night on which everything that breathes praises You. True Light and good Shepherd, be gracious to Your Holy Church which You redeemed by Your glorious Cross. Lead us on the way of Your commandments, giving light and understanding and holiness to all. Save and deliver those who have fallen into grievous temptations. Give health to the sick and relief to the oppressed. Lift up and set free those who have been caught in the snares of sin. Make to rest all those who have followed You in Your Passover, in the company of the saints, and may we all, with them, offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

As Jesus was leaving Jericho a blind beggar who was sitting on the road
heard that it was Jesus and began to shout,
"Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!"
And many rebuked him telling him to keep quiet.

But the beggar shouted all the louder, "Have pity on me!"
When Jesus asked to call him, they said to him:
"Take heart. Stand up, for He is calling you".
And he, throwing off his cloak, jumped up and came to Jesus.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus spoke, "What do you want Me to do for you?"
"Rabbouni, Master, I want to see the light."
"Go, said Jesus, your faith has made you whole".
And having recovered his sight, he followed Him on the road.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Come, beloved, let us pray the Lord like the blind man,
that He may make His light to shine on this assembly.
"Your light, He said, must shine in the sight of men,
that seeing your good works they may give praise to God".

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who delivered us by Your Fast.

Christ who fasted for our sake,
let us never fall away from Your love.

With deep compunction of heart,
we beseech You, O Gracious Lord,
hear the voice of our supplication
and answer us who call to You from our hearts.

O You who made us out of the dust of the soil,
make us chosen instruments for Your service.
Do not throw us away like the salt that has its taste. Rather,
make us have salt in ourselves and be at peace with one another.

Let us offer praise to the Father,
adoration to the Son who is of the Father,
and to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.
The Mystery of the trinity!

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place for ever...p.11

Common Response

Lord of all and full of graciousness,
we are defeated by our sins.
Let Your compassion plead for us
that we may find the way to the harbour of joys
without offending You or breaking the commandments,
or being guilty of any deliberate offence.
May Your graciousness be moved towards us, O God,
and make to grow in us confidence in You
while You give us the pardon of our sins.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Glorious One who is praised by the legions of flame and honoured by the assemblies of all the holy angles. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We entreat You, Good and Gentle Lord, that Your grace may not depart from Your Church which You redeemed by Your high arm and Your strong hand, and where You showed Your indignation, show now Your compassion. Keep away from the fruits of the earth and from all afflictions. Command that there may come to us times of refreshment from the presence of Your face. Hear us, Lord. Hear us, Lord. Hear us Lord, quickly and do not delay. Look upon the affliction of Your people and have pity on them. Behold the want of the poor and the needy, the oppressed and the downtrodden, who cry to You and lift up their eyes to You, that You may give them relief in their distress and restore to them well-being and dignity of life, Father, Son and holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

In the middle of the night, Lord, You set Your people free
from the yoke and the slavery to brick and clay.
In the middle of the night we call on You with all our hearts,
that You may makes us free from our passions and sins.

In the middle of the night David rose to praise the Godhead.
He praised the beauty of the stars and the great silence.
Like the son of Jesus let us say: "We remember You, O Lord.
At night we meditate on Your great love for us".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

At night when the strong wind blew up the waves
and the boat was about to sink in the deep,
Jesus rebuked the wind and there was great calm in the sea,
and the disciples were filled with awe and wonder.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord, make our bodies fitting temples for Your dwelling
and our hearts true abodes of Your peace,
our minds inspired seers of the truth,
our mouths harps of the Spirit for Your praise,
our prayer and meditation a sweet scent ascending to You.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord who have compassion on sinners,
have compassion on us on the day of Your judgement.

And forgive us our offences,
in the abundance of Your love.

"Is there a father among men," You said,
"who would give his son a stone when he is asked for bread?
How much more then will the Heavenly Father give all the good things
and the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him".

O Good One, in Your boundless love, receive the prayers
of Your sons who have come to You at night.
Through Your Holy Spirit, pour Your love into our hearts,
and Your mercy and compassion over the whole world.

You who open Your door to the penitent,
open to us, Lord, the door of Your mercy,
that we may enter by it and receive forgiveness from You.
Be to us forgiveness of all offences, our Lord.

Lord who have compassion on sinners,
forgive us our offences in the abundance of Your love.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia... Be compassionate towards us...p.13 followed by

The Cosmic Praise praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who delivered us by Your Fast

Christ who fasted for our sake,
let us never fall away from Your love.

Behold, this is the season of the Great Fast
in which the Churches must be purified and renewed.
People of God, rise to the occasion and be earnest
in all good works that bear fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Watch at night in prayer and meditation and holy reading,
and in the day be engaged in generous and noble works.
Restraint will do good to Your bodies and give them beauty
while your hearts will be renewed in purity and love.

Glory to the Father who adorned His Church with the Holy Fast.
Adoration to the Son who made her children to shine by fasting.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who leads her to the harbour of life.
Blessed is He, the Mystery Beyond Comprehension. To Him be praise.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer, p.22

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

First Thursday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father....(page 1)

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches p.3

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

PSALMS & RESPONSES From the Common Evening Prayers, p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who commanded the light and it departed, that by the setting of the sun the sons of men might be gathered into their dwelling and take rest from the toil of their labours, who teaches us that the end of our life may be understood by the departure of the day: our sleep of rest may be compared to our temporary repose in the grave and our awakening from sleep may be likened to the rising which will take place at the resurrection. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the evening prayer.

Source of Life and Maker of the Worlds, Lord, Creator of all, on this evening when the toil of man and the labours of the day come to an end, and the rays of the sun are withdrawn, grant, Lord, rest to our souls, repose to our thoughts and quite to our bodies from the cares of possessions which do not abide. Let not our minds grow dark with the evening. With the fading away of the earthly light, let us not be deprived of the inner light. But at the setting of the temporal sun, let the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us, and with the withdrawal of its rays let Your love irradiate our minds, that the rays of Your grace may dawn upon us. May the scent of our good actions give Your pleasure, and let these poor evening offerings which we, in our weakness, present before You, be for the outpouring of Your love. As the Good Lord and Lover of Man, and One who provides bountifully, provide for the orphans and the widows, clothe the naked, support those in need and want. Strengthen and deliver those who have to suffer on account of Your Holy Name. Gladden those who are oppressed by grief and comfort those who live in misery, that with them we may be worthy on Your Great Day which has no evening, in tabernacles of light and in the dwelling of the saints, to offer praise and thanksgiving, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amen.

Hymn

Abstinence is beautiful and prayer is real delight
when they are offered out of love, beloved.
Whoever loves God knows Him and is known by God.
Without loves no one can see God for God is love,
as John the disciples whom Jesus loved has so beautifully said.

God is love and His love for us was revealed
when He sent His beloved Son into the world,
that we might have life through Him and in Him,
who is Himself the sacrifice that takes away our sins.
Any one who lives in love lives in God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Fast is like a well provided and wealthy merchant,
who comes to us loaded with very valuable goods.
His merchandise will enrich our bodies as well as our souls.
Come, beloved, let us do some good trading with this merchant
with whom is life for mortals, life that does not pass away.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Narrow is the gate and hard the road that leads to life,
and those who find it are but few.
The gate that leads to perdition is wide and the road spacious.
Enter by the narrow gate, take the hard road,
lest you be allured into the pathless desert
with no way to the water of life.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ our God who in Your Divine Economy
accomplished the Holy Fast for our sake,
and taught us that by fasting and prayer
the sins of our human nature are forgiven,
in Your love, receive this incense,
and in Your goodness accept our fast and hear our prayers

In Your graciousness forgive our sins
and bring us to the Blessed and Holy Passover,
that we may be worthy to praise You with open faces
and to offer our adorations to You
and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Make us worthy, Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast in purity that is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
There was only void and darkness, and God said, "Let there be light!"
And there was light, and He was pleased with the light that He saw.
And He separated the light from the darkness.
God called the light Day, and the darkness Night.
Thus evening came and morning. The first day

On the forth day of the creation God said, "Let there be lights
in the vault of heaven, sun and moon to govern the day and the night,
and the stars also to mark the fixed times, days, months and years,
and the seasons of the year, and let them be
lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth.

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God
and the Word was God. The Word was made flesh and became
the light of the world, the light that shines in the dark
and enlightens all men, the light that darkness cannot overpower.
The light of the day yields to the night,
but over the Word become flesh the Evil One cannot prevail.

Beloved, the darkness has receded, the true light is shining.
Christ makes this happen for us for there is no darkness in Him.
We are children of the light, it is our own experience.
Anyone who does not love his brother remains in the dark,
but when we love each other we are in the light.

Adoration and praise to the Father, Creator of the light,
and to the Son who is his Splendour and to the Holy Spirit
equal in essence to the Light and to the Splendour.
And on us His graciousness in this world and in the world to come.
Trinity exalted above all, to You be glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 7:1-7 Preparations for the flood.
Si 1:1-15 All wisdom comes from the Lord.
Jn 1:23-17 Listen to God's word...

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... the word of God... p.8

Mt 6:5-18 How to pray.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worth, Lord our God, to stand before...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord ! Bless the Lord all you...p.9

RESPONSE

We have loved sleep more than praise,
and we have indulged in vain desires,
awaken us then and make us stand to praise You.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Beloved, let us arouse ourselves to prayer,
and beseech the judge let He should condemn us.
On the day of Your judgement be gracious to all.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Beloved, let us put an end to all misdeeds,
and if we fall, let us acknowledge our fault,
turning to God and neighbour in sorrow and repentance.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Many of our days are spent in the dark.
Beloved, let us come into the full light of Christ,
the light that has come to dispel all darkness.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Let us put off the old man and all evil desires
to put on the new man in Christ,
that we may offer worship in spirit and in truth.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Glory to Him who is One in Tree and the Three are one.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him all praise. And on us His love and compassion.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 27 (26):1-8 The Lord is my light and my help;

RESPONSE

Blessed is the Lord who hears our appeals.
The Lord is our strong shield, in Him our hearts trust.
We are renewed in Him. Our hearts leap for joy
as we praise Him with our songs.

Blessed is He who by His Fast taught us self-restraint
and showed us how to trample on the vile passions of the old self
to be set free from our bondage to sin
and to obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Door of Mercy which is open to sinners who knock at it, to the Supreme Hope who yearns for the penitent, to the Perfect Redemption who draws near to those who seek Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We beseech You, Lord, that as You redeemed us by Your life-giving sufferings from the dominion of the Enemy and gave us life by Your Resurrection, make us worthy by Your grace that our minds may be renewed from the inveteracy of sin. Drive from us the sorrow which darkens our hearts and wipe away the tears from our eyes by the hope of Your consolation. Clothe our bodies in incorruptibility and make us all resplendent in the garment of glory, that we may behold You, our True Bridegroom, in light. And grant us and to our fathers and brothers and teachers, and all the true believers who have departed from this life the

happiness of the Heavenly Kingdom, that we and they may offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Many and wonderful are the gifts that have come to us
through the Law, the Prophets and the Sages who followed them.
They handed over to us a tradition of meditation and prayer,
of discipline and wisdom by which we come to share in God's life.

Wisdom is spoken to those who are spiritually mature.
But it is not the wisdom that belongs to this world.
The wisdom of which the apostle Paul speaks
is God's secret wisdom, wisdom hidden from human beings.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

But God makes known His secrets by means of His Spirit,
the Spirit searching even the hidden depths of God's purposes.
Who knows the mind of God? Those who have the mind of Christ.
Those who have the Spirit are able to judge.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

We are taught not to yield to the world's spirit
we who have received the Spirit sent by God into our hearts.
He teaches us to discern the charisms that He has given us,
not in words of human wisdom but in words of the Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Make us worthy, our Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast in purity that is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

Sons, from your earliest youth seek Wisdom
and till your hair grows white you will keep finding Her.
Cultivate Her like the sower who ploughs his land twice
and very soon you will be eating Her fruits.

"Happy are those who keep to my ways", says Wisdom.
"Happy the man who listens to Me,
watching daily with his eyes on My doorway.
He who finds Me finds life and favour with God.

How rich are the depths of God !
How deep are His wisdom and knowledge !
Who could ever know the mind of the Lord?
All that exists comes from Him, is by Him and for Him.
To Him be glory.

Glory to the Father who is all light for those who look to Him.
Adoration to the Son who is all compassion
for those who put their trust in Him.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who welcomes the penitent.
To Him who is one being in three persons all glory.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 30(29) I shall exalt You, Lord, for You have lifted me up...

RESPONSE
O Lord our God, we cry to You and You hear us.
You save us from Sheol and You restore us to life
from among those who went down into the Pit.
Let us sing to the Lord with joy
and remember His holiness with thanksgiving.

As we share in Christ's many sufferings,
so also in Christ our consolation overflows.
He comforts us in all our trials
that we also may comfort others in their trials,
sharing with them the consolation we receive from God.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who calls sinners to repentance and does not hold back His mercy from His worshippers, who cares for the life of all flesh and makes His goodness to shine on all those who turn to Him, the Good One to whom belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

In Your presence, God the Father, who are hidden from the wakeful Ones, and the angles, and in the presence of Your Beloved Son who manifested Himself to the world, and in the presence of Your Holy Spirit who brings pardon to the world by His descent, and before Your holy altar on which Your Exalted Godhead is proclaimed and on which Your Glorious Trinity descends, we offer prayers that it may be for the pardon of offences of all our people and for the rest and remembrance of all those who have followed Your Son in His Passover. For all these we also offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

At night Jesus was in the boat with his disciples.
A storm blew up and the waves were spilling over,
and the boat was being filled with water,
but Jesus was at the back, asleep on the cushion.

"Master", cried the disciples, "We are sinking, do You not care?"
Jesus awoke and He commanded the wind, "Be quiet!"
And He said to the waves, "Be still!"
And the wind kept quiet and there was a great calm on the sea.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Why are you frightened?
How is it that you have still so little faith?"
And they were afraid and they said to one another, "Who is he?"
We do have faith, Lord, but strengthen us when it is shaken.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

What then is faith? Faith is what gives substance to our hopes
and makes us certain of realities we do not see.
Your Gospel, Lord, tells us how God puts us right with Himself.
He who is put right with God through faith shall live.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who set us free by Your Fast.

Christ who fasted for our sake, let us never fall away from Your love.

Let us be diligent in the labour that obtains life.
God has created us for a life of good works,
the good deeds which are His design for us.
Yet it is by grace that we are saved, through faith.

Beloved, let us admonish each other to discernment.
If we are living in sin, repentances with faith will redeem us.
But we have to grow in faith through good works.
What matters is faith that works through love.

He who gives bread to the hungry will be blessed like Abraham.
He who has compassion on the poor will himself obtain mercy.
Abraham believed and God called him, Abraham, my friend.
He believed and left his country and offered his son on the altar.

Praise, honour and adoration to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, from age to age and foe ever.
May His love and compassion be on us and on the whole world.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

Our sins and our transgressions we confess before You, O Lord.
We beg and beseech You, be always gracious to us and all.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the compassionate Father, the Father of Mercies and Fountain of all Goodness, who promised the Kingdom of Heaven to those who have laboured in His vineyard in truth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

In Your graciousness, Lord, heal our diseases, both concealed and manifest, and give peace to Your Churches by the blood which flowed from Your side. Bestow on all rulers Your integrity and the love of Your faith. Visit, O Father of Mercies, those who are on land or on sea or in the air with angles of peace and draw all those who are far from Your truth towards You. Stretch forth, Lord, Your right hand and bless us all by Your grace. Receive our prayers in Your love and keep our lives under the sign of Your Cross. Kindle in our hearts the fragrance of purity and holiness. And we will praise You and exalt You without ceasing, for You are worshipped by those above and those below, and Your Name is hallowed and blessed in heaven and on earth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Awake, sinners, remember the day of your departure
when you will have to face the judge and give account to Him
before whom all secrets lie open, and like everyone
be repaid according to your deeds.

You are made in the image of Your Creator
and He imprinted on you the seal of His death.
He warned you lest you disfigure the likeness of God
and be found guilty by the Judge of dishonouring His image.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Do some profitable work but labour under self-restraint
that you be always engaged in the labour of life.
Set at all times before your eyes the remembrance of God,
that will save you at the hour of judgement.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Is it a gain to win the whole world when you lose your life?
"If you are ashamed of Me", said Jesus, "in this wicked age",
the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when He comes in glory".
Be ready to see the Kingdom of God coming with power even now.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
You who have compassion on sinners,
have compassion on us on the day of Your judgement.

And forgive us offer offences
in the abundance of Your love.

Fast and abstinence are an armour of salvation.
By His Fast Jesus defeated the Evil One
and put an end to his rule over us.

Nineveh had sinned against You, O God,
and the destruction of the city was decreed.
But at the admonishment of Jonah they came to repentance.

And what of us sinners?
How fearful will be the reckoning of justice
unless we watch and examine ourselves now !

Blessed are those who weep now, as You taught Your disciples,
for they shall find mercy and be comforted.
Praise to You for Your grace that comforts those who fast.

Lord of the heights and of the depths,
receive our service and our prayers
and be always gracious to us and all.

FOURTH WATCH

when the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia... Be compassionate towards us...p.13 *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Make us worthy, our Lord, to fast in holiness,
a fast in purity which is pleasing to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

The mind clouded with desires becomes bright by fasting
and the soul is illumined and restored to its former beauty.
By fasting the flesh led astray by its shameful passions
is subdued and brought under the gentle yoke of the Holy Spirit.

By fasting the soul ascends the ladder of perfection
and is raised and made worthy of the friendship of the wakeful ones.
By fasting is gained the victory over the passions,
a victory which cannot be obtained without self-restraint.

By fasting is averted the condemnation that threatens us
and mercy is obtained, provided fast is without passion,
and the Good One pours His compassion over the whole creation.
Blessed is He who gives us the fast with all its blessings.

Glory to the Father who sees the fast done in secret.
Adoration to the Son who fasted forty days for our sake.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who crowns those who fast.
O Good One, receive our humble fast and be gracious to all.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer p.22

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

First Friday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father ....(page -1)

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms and Responses *From the Common Evening Prayers,* p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Most High, the Eternal and Glorious Trinity which was revealed to our Father Abraham, the lover of hospitality, in the form of three angels, and was manifested as one Godhead in three persons. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Lord our God, You are pleased to call to life and salvation all those who are created by You. O God of peace and compassion, You draw all men towards You. You cherish every one. You provide for every one. You embrace every one in Your love. You earnestly long to make every one pure and holy. You come as the Physician to every one, even to those who have not called You, those who have not sought You. You allow Yourself to be found by those who do not seek You. You thirsted that You might give to drink. You were hungry that You might give to eat. No human being has ever been so much in need of receiving as You felt in need of giving Yourself. Like the sun You make Your spiritual light shine on the good and on the wicked, and like a spiritual rain You let the shower of Your blessings fall on the just and on the evil ones.

Therefore we who are sinful and unprofitable servants beseech Your Goodness, confirm us by Your Strength. Guard us and protect us within Your walls, that we may always be diligent in right behaviour and lead a virtuous life, keeping far from us all deceit, and being zealous in all good works, and we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Friday God fashioned man in His image and likeness
and placed him in Paradise to dwell with the spiritual ones.
On Friday Satan inflamed with jealousy offered Adam
the fruit of the tree and brought about his fall.

On Friday Eve ate the fruit and reaped pain
and suffering and God's malediction.
Driven out of the Garden of Joys she left in great distress,
with sighs and groanings which cannot be described.

On Friday Adam and Eve were asked:
"Who gave you fig leaves to cover yourselves?
Who stripped you of your honour and made you hide from Me?
Accursed be the Deceiver who with the fruit caused your death."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On Friday the Beautiful Ones were asleep in Paradise.
The Evil one entered and deprived them of their beauty.
They awoke agitated out of sleep to find themselves naked;
they received, instead, thorns and the malediction
and went forth to the earth.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

God of all beauty and lover of the beautiful ones,
at all times give us the beauty of a pure heart,
and remove from us all vanity and anxiety,
and all wretched thoughts which draw us away from You.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

O Lord, open Your door to our prayer.
Let the incense of Your servants please Your Graciousness
like the savour of the sacrifice of Noah the just
and the offering of Elijah the prophet

Send us Your help as You did to Daniel in the den
and to Hananiah and his companions in the furnace.
Because You are a Lord who are pleased
to redeem and save and help and deliver,
we rejoice in offering praise to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which You fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

Beloved, let not any one lead us astray.
To live a holy life is to be holy as He is.
To live a sinful life is to belong to the Devil
since the Devil was sinner from the beginning.

It was to undo all that the Devil has done
that the Son of God appeared on earth.
He in whom there is no sin took on Himself the sin of the world,
the Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world.

We have all strayed alike, each one of us going his own way,
but God laid upon Him the guilt of all.
Humbled by suffering He submitted to be struck down
led to the slaughter He did not open His mouth.

He had no beauty, no majesty to draw our eyes,
no grace to make us find delight in Him.
His form disfigured lost all the likeness of man,
His beauty vanished beyond all human semblance.

Yet He was allotted a portion with the great
and given a share of the spoil of the mighty
because He bore the sins of many
and interceded for their transgressions.

Blessed are You, Christ who walked on earth
according to Your Dispensation, the Economy of Salvation,
to make exiled Adam return to Paradise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 7:11-24 The Flood.

Si 1:20-30 To revere the Lord is the root of wisdom.
Jm 2:8-13 The merciful need have no fear of judgement.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God...p.8

Mt 6:25-34 Seek first what pleases God.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God, to stand...p.9
Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.9
RESPONSE
Lord of all, in your graciousness,
give us the wakefulness of the powers on high,
and make us worthy to enter the wedding feast with them
and to sing praise to You when You will come in glory.

Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us the wakefulness of the wise virgins,
and make us worthy to enter the wedding feast with them
and to sing praise to You when You will come again.

Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us the faith of the sinful woman in the house of Simon,
and make us worthy to enter the wedding feast with her
and to sing praise to You when You will come again.

Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us the faith of the thief at the right hand,
and make us worthy to enter the wedding feast with him
and to sing praise to You when You will come again.

Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us compunction and humility of the publican,
and make us worthy to enter the wedding feast with him
and to sing praise to You when You will come again.

Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us purity and holiness in the full measure of Your grace,
that we may be worthy to enter the wedding feast,
and to sing praise to You when You will come again.

Glory to the Adorable One,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all-gracious,
One Power who can do all things.
To Him be praise at all times and thanksgiving unceasingly.

Psalm 34 (33) I will bless the Lord at all times...

RESPONSE
Together let us praise and magnify the Lord,
look towards Him and be radiant,
in Him make all our boast,
taste and see that the Lord is good.

Let us rid ourselves of all evil
and be always thirsty for pure and spiritual milk,
that by drinking it we may grow and thrive,
tasting and seeing that the Lord is good.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who gave His Cross as a stronghold to His Church and made His shame the glory of His bride. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, who when You saw our weak race grown old in sin were raised upon the wood of the Cross, we will worship Your Holy Cross while we say: "The Cross is a stronghold which does not fall. The Cross is an armour which does not fail. The Cross is a challenge to unbelievers. The Cross brings together all nations. The Cross crowns the martyrs. The Cross reconciles those in heaven and those on earth."

Therefore, Lord, by Your Cross forgive our faults. By Your Cross guard Your Churches. By Your Cross strengthen ashrams and monasteries. By Your Cross be present among Your people and make us and all those who have followed you in your Passover worthy to worship You on the day of Your manifestation from heaven, that we may find protection under the wings of Your Cross. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Sun of Righteousness was taken down from the Cross,
and the Church received Him, kissing his sacred wounds:
"Far be it from You, Beloved, to descend into Sheol!
Far be it from You that your body be worn out by corruption!"
And Jesus said, "Be at peace, Beloved Church, I rise, I resurrect,
halleluia, and my friends rejoice, those who believe in Me."

On Golgotha the people crucified the Living Lamb of God,
the Saviour of the world. They put a crown of thorns on His head.
They pierced His hands and gave Him vinegar to drink.
They thrust His side open with a spear and, as it is written,
there flowed from it blood and water for the pardon of the world.
Halleluia, praise to Him for His goodness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

At the door of the heavenly courts stands Mary.
Holding the cross in hand, she says to her Son:
"By this cross which bore You on Golgotha,
by the nails in Your hands and in Your feet,
by the spear that opened Your side on the summit of the Cross,
keep away hard times from the Churches and their people,
halleluia, and be gracious to the whole world."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord was hung on the cross between thieves.
The Holy Spirit who saw Him rent asunder the curtain.
He asked water and they gave Him gall.
He looked up to heaven and the lights went out.
On Friday at the ninth hour He breathed His last
and surrendered His spirit into the hands of His Father.
Praise to Him who suffered so much, halleluia, for our salvation.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which You fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

The Living Lamb of the Godhead arrived at the high place.
The crucifiers stood there before Him
with the priests who plotted to put Him to death.
They fastened Him on the wood of the Cross on Golgotha.
The wicked house-builders rejected the Chief Corner-stone.

He was stretched like a pillar from the depths to the heights,
the Hero who bears the burden of the world was lifted up.
When their Lord breathed His last with a loud voice
the sun and the moon terror stricken were obscured
and there was darkness all over the world.

The sun said: "How can I enlighten the creation? For, behold,
the Great Sun of Righteousness is on the Cross!"
Also the day which poured its light upon his face
saw the Lord condemned and hanging between the thieves.

Praise to You, Lord, who bore with such great love,
suffering, dishonour and all evil from sinners.
In Your passion the Church Your spouse suffers with You.
On the day of the resurrection, rejoice her in Your Kingdom.

Blessed are You, Christ, who walked on earth
according to Your Dispensation, the Economy of Salvation,
to make exiled Adam return to Paradise.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place.. p.11

Psalm 35 (34) O Lord, plead my caust against my foes...

RESPONSE
Witnesses step forward telling lies
and accuse Me of matters of which I know nothing.
They return Me evil for good
lying in wait to take My life.

When the chief priests tried to find false evidence against Jesus,
to put Him to death, two men stepped forward and said:
"This man said, I can pull down the temple of God,
and within three days I will rebuild it."

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Saviour who made His Cross a stronghold for His flock and gave it as a shield of salvation for His inheritance. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

We worship You, Christ our God, and we take refuge in Your Holy Cross. By it may the sacrifice of our lips and the offering of the incense of our minds be perfected. By Your Cross may peace come to us and joy be bestowed upon the whole world. By Your Cross may sin be blotted out and righteousness increase. By Your Cross may the living be sustained and the dead be raised. And on the last day may we be protected under its wings and may Your people come to the house of life. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Lord, our Lord, when the Wakeful Ones saw You on the Cross,
the heavenly powers were stirred and wanted to descend
and wipe away the presumptuous who crucified You.
But when they heard Your prayer, "Father, forgive them",
they gave up their own desire and praised Your abasement.

Lord, our Lord, on Friday the Church saw You on the Cross
and the soldiers dividing Your clothes among themselves,
and offering You vinegar and gall to drink.
She blessed and worshipped, saying with a loud voice:
"Adoration to You, O heavenly King!"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, our Lord, the heavenly ones and the earthly ones marvelled
as the people crucified You whom the Winged Creatures cannot behold.
The wicked covered Your face with their filthy spittle,
but You prayed Your Father to forgive them, O Lover of Humankind.
Halleluia, we adore You, O Saviour of the world.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord, our Lord, I beheld the wood of the Cross and I marvelled
how it carried You whom nothing can carry. Your might carried the Cross as
You carried the womb that carried You.
Blessed is Your abasement by which Your Church is exalted.
She praises Your Saving Passion.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by Your Cross and Your Passion and Your Death.

Christ who were crucified on Friday,
make us to be crucified to sin.

On Friday the Firstborn was crucified,
and He suffered the passion and dishonour,
and He saved Adam and his children
from the tyranny of sin.

On this day, Friday,
He became our hope and our salvation,
Christ who set us free by His Death
and put to shame the crucifiers.

Woe to us, Lord, for by our sins we nailed You on the Cross
like the people who crucified You on Golgotha.
Lord, by Your Passion be gracious to all,
all give us tears to weep over our sins.

Peace who reconciled the creation,
reconcile the earth in its fulness,
and its inhabitants will offer praise to You,
and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by Your Cross and Your Passion and Your Death.

Christ who were crucified on Friday,
make us to be crucified to sin.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

Praise to Him who was crucified,
out of love for His Church,
and by His precious blood,
saves her from error and untruth.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who tore in pieces the register of our sins, and made us ascend with Him to heaven, and made us sit at the right hand of His Father. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, when You were hung upon the Wood You saved and delivered us in our guilt. We honour Your Cross while we say that it was God who was crucified upon it. We worship the Cross as the great sign and token of salvation which shall go before You at the time of Your manifestation from heaven. Therefore we all worship the Cross. In the Cross we put our trust. We praise the Cross. We exalt and embrace the Cross. In it is our boast and we glorify You, Christ. We receive Your passion and Your death in our flesh that with You we may live, and likewise with You we may reign in Your Heavenly Kingdom. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Adorable Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On the sixth day God made Adam from the earth.
He fashioned him in His own image,
clothed him with the glory of His Godhead,
and made him head and prophet,
priest and ruler over all creatures.

Adam was clothed with the garment of glory in Paradise.
The Evil One, out of envy, cast him out of his inheritance.
But his Lord, moved by compassion, descended
and restored him to his place from where he had fallen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to Him who made us in His image, icons of his greatness.
He saved us from the Evil One by His passion and crucifixion
and gave us a victorious armour the Holy and Life-giving Cross.
Let us take shelter and refuge under its wings.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

To You be glory, Jesus, who saved us by Your Cross,
and by Your passion paid the debt of our father Adam.
Behold, with great joy the Churches and their people
offer thanksgiving because You saved us.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We adore You, Christ, who were crucified on Friday.

By the blood that flowed from Your side, Lord, heal our wounds.

On Friday the Hidden Trinity created Adam our father,
and gave him possession of Paradise. And when he ate the fruit
and broke the commandment, the Lord descended for his sake
and restored him to His grace.

I was given to live in the Paradise of blessedness
in which was the tree of life.
The Evil One, out of envy, drove me out of it.
But You came yourself to restore me to my inheritance.

The sweet promise which the thief heard from You on the Cross,
give us also to hear it from You, our Lord.
Engrave in our hearts the remembrance of Your Passion.
that we may die to sin and be crucified to the world.

Praise to Christ who was crucified on the Cross,
and by His loud cry made the rocks to split.
Thanksgiving to His Father who sent Him for us all
and to the Holy Spirit who made Him perfect for our salvation.

We adore You, Christ, who were crucified on Friday.

By the blood that flowed from Your side, Lord, heal our wounds.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia... Be compassionate towards us...p.13 *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which you fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

The Lord honoured Adam, our father, placing him in Eden.
The Evil one was envious of him and had him cast out.
Who will not lament the loss of the glory of Eden?
Who will not mourn over the blessedness lost?

Who will not suffer at being deprived of the place of delight?
Who will not deplore the loss of that beauty?
Who will not be disturbed by such a great foolishness?
Who will not be confounded to be sent out of Paradise?

Because Adam ate the forbidden fruit
Death reigned over all generations from the beginning.
Because Adam was greedy and ate the fruit from the tree
He who planted the tree of life was lifted up on the tree.

Because Adam was stripped of his glory among the trees,
the Lord of Adam ascended the Cross in nakedness,
Because Adam, our father, was led astray by the Enemy
our Lord overthrew the Enemy by His birth and by His death.

Glory to the Father who made Adam priest and king.
Adoration to the Son who made him heir to His glory.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who gives life to our humanity.
Being who were before the world, be gracious to all.

Blessed are You, Christ, who walked on earth
according to Your Dispensation, the Economy of Salvation,
to make exiled Adam return to Paradise.

INTERCESSIONS AND CONCLUDING PRAYER, p...23

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

First Saturday of the Great Fast Ephrem the Great Teacher and Theodore the Martyr Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp *Before the service if convenient.*

Doxology Glory be to the Father...(page -1)

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to grow in the spirit of the prophets, to be strengthened in the faith of the apostles, to be ennobled by the victory of the martyrs, to be enlightened by the wisdom of the teachers and to

be enriched with all the charisms of the saints, that with them we may rejoice in the Kingdom and offer You praise without ceasing, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord our, Maker.

Psalm 80 (79) O Shepherd of Israel, hear us...

RESPONSE

Blessed is Christ who chose you, Noble Ephrem.
and gave you wisdom and the power of the Spirit,
glorious father and blessed teacher, who strengthened
the Churches by teaching divine praises to their children.

The beauty of your combat made you famous, Ephrem the Elect.
You were clothed with God and you merited the gift of the Spirit
to search out the depths and unveil the mysteries, and you taught
the believers to sing: "God of our fathers, You are blessed for ever."

Evening Psalms We call upon you, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

On this day of your memory, holy and elect Saint Ephrem,
all the creation rejoices and sings praise to Him who chose you.

Your clothing was poor and simple, your food was little and it was thus
that you fulfilled your days, Saint Ephrem, glorious among our teachers.

May our assembly which receives your teachings be blessed
by your prayers and may the peace of Your Lord rest
on the Church which resounds with your praises.

Illustrious Saint Theodore, intercede for us
with Him who strengthened You in the contest
that He may forgive us all our sins.

By your prayers, O Glorious Theodore,
may this assembly which celebrates your commemoration
be led to the bridal chamber full of joys.

Glory to Him who is One in Three and the Three are One,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Glory to Him and may His graciousness rest upon us.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who bestows heavenly gifts on Man and who made Saint Ephrem illustrious in beauty because he believed in Him and kept His commandments, who filled him with the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and made to flow from within him a divine teaching full of the joy of life. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God who took delight in Saint Ephrem, enlighten us to offer a praise such as is fitting to the glory You bestowed on him, the pride of our teachers, model of deacons and ornament of hermits and monks. A faithful trader he made his talent increase and did not allow himself to be robbed by the great thief which is sin. Fountain from which flow hymns whose delightful chants awaken the whole earth. Divine sage who began by practising and then taught his disciples the precepts of salvation, versed in all knowledge, speaking with simplicity to help the simple, being at once serpent and dove. He gave rhythm to all his prose, putting his teaching in verse and it spread throughout the world. He made women descend into the arena of doctrinal disputation, and by means of young children won the victory against erroneous doctrines. His sacred songs are like waves of the sea and none among the wise of the world has been able to sound their depth and their extent. He is the crown of the Syrian people who communicated to us spiritual riches and from him we learned to praise the Lord in delightful hymns.

Therefore we ask you, Christ our God, by the intercession of our father Saint Ephrem, Your elect, accept this service which we present with great joy, as a delightful perfume to Your will. Fill us with Your love

that we may always do the works which are pleasing to You. Form in us the image of Your likeness as You did for Your servant Ephrem. Make the light of Your knowledge rise over us and infuse in us the transforming power of Your grace. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Having left this body and the bondage of time, O Ephrem,
because of your purity you appeared almost like your Lord.
You were bound to Him by the bond of love,
O Image of Christ and witness of the new life in Him.

Ephrem, elect of God, you were a stream from Eden,
watering all the creation with the living waters of knowledge.
You were the mystic harp of the Holy Spirit,
delighting and nourishing the Churches by your divine songs.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Your love, O Theodore, was stronger than death, a divine passion.
Unflinching in the face of all threats, it blazed into a flame,
a blazing fire which no water could quench,
which no flood could sweep away.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Your faith, O martyr of God, was the revelation of His power,
You rejoiced in the midst of the flames as in refreshing water.
Burnt by the flames, as bread is baked in the fire,
you were a sacrificial offering to the Holy Trinity.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Lord, Giver of all good, who hear our prayers
receive the incense and the prayer which we present to You,
on the feast of Your saints, Ephrem the noble ascetic,
honour and ornament of the teachers of orthodox faith
and Theodore, Your glorious martyr.

By their prayers, Lord, heal our diseases, strengthen the weak,
satisfy the poor, feed the hungry, receive the penitent,
forgive sinners, comfort all those who are oppressed,
and give to the dead who rest in Your hope
the repose of the Heavenly Kingdom, and we will offer You
praise and thanksgiving, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Noble Ephrem,
that we may come to believe more and more in Jesus,
and streams of living water may pour out from our hearts.

By your prayer, O Theodore, glorious among the martyrs,
may the Lord strengthen us in faith and hope,
and through His Holy Spirit, pour His love into our hearts.

On this day of your remembrance, holy and elect Saint Ephrem,
the creation rejoices and the Churches sing praise
to Him who chose you and gave you His Holy Spirit
to search out and unveil the mysteries of divine wisdom.

May this assembly which rejoices in your teachings
learn from you how to ponder over the word of God.
May we treasure up all its mysteries in our hearts,
for a spiritual understanding of the things we experience.

Illustrious Saint Theodore, holy martyr of Christ,
true pattern of the perfection of the holy Gospel,
perfect disciple and imitator of your Lord,
intercede for us with Him who strengthened you in the contest.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In Me is all grace and truth, says the Lord.
All hope of life and strength.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
It is my Father's glory that you bear much fruit.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn. 15: 1-8 Remain in Jesus to bear much fruit.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who raised up for us Saint Ephrem like a living and breathing pillar and a pattern of evangelical perfection, grant to Your Church, during this holy season to be renewed on the pattern of the luminous pages of Your Gospel, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who raised up for us Saint Theodore the Great Martyr and through him revealed how Your disciples can give the testimony of the greatest love by laying down their life for You, grant us all who are gathered here in his name to walk like him all the way in Your footsteps, however hard the road may be, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, make us imitators of our fathers Ephrem and Theodore in their ardent faith and their great love, in imitation of You who offered Your life out of love for the world, we beseech You and we will cry three times,

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord.! Bless the Lord all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
It is right and good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to sing the threefold hallowing.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to offer praise,
make us also, earthly ones, worthy to sing praise with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is Christ who endowed you with the charism of teaching
and made the Churches to shine with the loftiness of your life.
Glory, to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is the Holy Spirit who unveiled for you
the deep mysteries hidden in the Sacred Scriptures.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who is One in Three, and the Three are One,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God,
Supreme Abode whom pure minds yearn for,
Glorious Trinity, Source and Consummation of all things.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who follows not the way of the wicked...

RESPONSE
Happy is the man whose delight is in the Lord.
He is like a tree planted beside a watercourse,
whose leaves never fade and who gives fruit in due season.
The Lord Himself watches over his ways.

Blessed Ephrem, Mystic Harp of the Holy Spirit,
you are a tree planted beside the river of life
which bears fruit unceasingly, every month of the year,
and its leaves are for the healing of the nations.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Word of the Eternal Father who lowered Himself to dwell in the womb of the Virgin and was clothed in flesh from her and came forth from her womb. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We salute you, Mary, Mother of God, Light never extinguished Mother and Virgin. It is through You that He comes, He who in the Holy Gospel comes in the name of the Lord. It is through you that the Trinity is blessed, that the Cross is worshipped throughout the world. Through you the Enemy is defeated and the fallen head of the creation is re-elevated to heaven and all the creation returns to the knowledge of the truth. Through you all the believers obtain baptism and the oil of joy. Through you Churches are founded in all the world and people obtain conversion, because through you that Unique Son of God illumines with His light those who are in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Therefore we beg of you, O Mother of Graciousness, that you will intercede with your Son and your God, to obtain for us that repentance which crucifies sin, and compunction which brings blessedness, that like

our father Saint Ephrem we may experience the bliss of the beatitudes. Through virginity and poverty, sobriety and watchfulness, may His disciples radiate in this homeland of asceticism and contemplation the spiritual beauty of the Gospel and the transfiguring splendour of the Holy Spirit. Through unceasing prayer and humble service may they attain the heights of divine love, to be in truth like your Son Jesus, sons of the Father, temples of the Holy Spirit and brothers to all people now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Ephrem[1]

Refrain after each stanza
Praise to You to whom all things are easy, for You are almighty.

No one quite knows, Lord, what to call Your mother.
Should we call her virgin?
But her giving birth is an established fact.
Or married woman? But no one has known her.
If Your mother's case is beyond comprehension,
who can hope to understand Yours?

She alone is Your mother,
but she is Your sister with everyone else.
She was Your mother, she was Your sister,
She was Your bride too along with all chaste souls.
You, who are Your mother's beauty,
Yourself adorned her with everything!

She was betrothed according to custom before you came.
But when you came, O Holy One,
she conceived outside of nature
and was a virgin when she gave birth to You
in most holy fashion.

With You Mary underwent all that married women undergo:
conception, but without knowing man.
Her breast filled with milk, but against nature's pattern.
You made her, the thirsty earth,
all of a sudden into a fountain of milk...

Your mother is a cause for wonder; the Lord entered into her
and became a servant; He who is the Word entered
and became silent within her; thunder entered her
and made no sound; there entered the Shepherd of all
and in her He became the Lamb, bleating as He comes forth...

The Mighty One entered, and put on insecurity
from her womb; the Provisioner of all entered
and experienced hunger; He who gives drink to all entered
and experienced thirst: naked and stripped
there came forth from her He who clothes all.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 17 (16) Hear, Holy Lord, and give heed to my supplication...

RESPONSE
Show Your great love, You whose right hand
saves Your friends from those who plot against them.
As for us, when we awake, our great hope is to see Your face,
to be filled with the sight of Your glory.

Death is swallowed up in victory and victory is won.
O Death, where is your victory? Where is your sting?
Your power to hurt, you get from sin, but thanks to God
we are given the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to You, Lord Jesus Christ, who by Your living blood which You shed for us on the height of Golgotha made the holy ones drunk with Your love, and they endured every kind of death for Your sake. To You belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We praise You, Christ, who magnify Your servants. We exalt You, O God, who make glorious Your martyrs. We laud Your Lordship, Jesus our Saviour, who give strength to Your athletes, who because of Your name and Your love which burned in their hearts, suffered and endured every kind of death. You strengthened Saint Theodore of noble beauty in the contest he entered because of his faith in You. He gave up his body to every torment and he slew the dragon with the lance of the Cross, and kept his soul without stain. As he ascends to the heights, the companies of the spiritual beings and the crowd of the saints come out to meet him with a greeting of joy. Come in peace, strong wrestler of whom the Adversary and his servants are afraid. And the Holy Church weaves a crown of blessings for him while she says, "Blessed are you, noble Saint Theodore, whom the right hand of the Most High strengthened against the dragon."

Therefore, O Lord, pour out Your grace from Your treasure house on this assembly who keeps his memory with songs of the Holy Spirit. Open Your door to the needy who knock at it. Answer their requests. And may we all be worthy of the happiness with him at the table of blessings which You have prepared for the human family. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You who magnifies his festival, and to Your Father who called him, and to Your Holy Spirit, who crowned him, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn for Saint Theodore

Who can recount your glorious deeds, O Blessed Theodore?
Victorious martyr who were burnt for your Master,
bearing the flames of fire for the love of Him,
you gave up your life to death to share in His resurrection.

Jesus Christ was your life, enduring life.
You suffered with Him, enduring all things,
In Him you bore the fruit which is imperishable,
becoming perfect man because He strengthened you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Be glad, O Noble Theodore, the Churches rejoice with you.
In your martyrdom the Kingdom has come with power,
the new life which death cannot destroy,
the old has passed away, all things are become new.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In this holy season of the Great Fast the Churches honour
the memory of the great fathers, glorious teachers of truth,
Ephrem, humble deacon monk of the Churches of Mesopotamia,
and Theodore the Great Martyr. May their prayers be with us.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayers of Your servants Ephrem and Theodore.

By the prayers of those who loved You so much,
be gracious to the whole world.

Who will not proclaim blessed
him who is for us a fountain of holy doctrine?
Who would not offer praise with joy
for Saint Ephrem the sweet spring of life?

On this day on which we celebrate
your remembrance, O Saint Theodore,
pray and ask from your Lord,
to make His peace reign all over the creation.

O Saint Ephrem, never cease
to offer supplication to God for His people
and may the truth of your teachings
always be resplendent in the Holy Churches.

Glory to the Father who chose you both,
noble Saint Ephrem and glorious Theodore,
Thanksgiving to the Son and the Holy Spirit.
And on us, His love and His compassion.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of the Leper
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...(page -1)

Opening Prayer

Good physician and Lord full of graciousness who humbled Yourself on account of the weakness of our human nature, and cleansed the lepers, and gave sight to the blind, and raised the dead, may our hearts be purified by You and our bodies made whole, and the eyes of our minds be opened that we may perceive and understand Your divine commandments and with the repentant sinners and the penitents who have been put right with You we may offer praise to You and to Your Father and to the Holy spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 104 (103) My whole being bless the Lord...

RESPONSE
Lord God, how great You are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe.
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
You make the winds Your messengers.

You make the grass grow for the cattle
and green things to serve man's needs,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen his heart...
We will sing to the Lord all our life.

Psalm 6 Lord, do not rebuke me with anger...

RESPONSE

A leper approached Christ beseeching Him:
"Lord, if You will, You can cure me of my loathsome disease.
I have become a stranger to all who knew me.
May Your medicine heal me and I will cry out:
"You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers and Lord of the whole creation."

In the furnace of suffering and in the crucible of temptation
we are burned by the wicked enemy who attacks us.
But we will defeat him by a prayer that is pure
and by the fast that soothes suffering.
And we will cry and say: "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers and Lord of the whole creation."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

Glory to Christ who in His love for humankind
descended from the heights to the depths to heal His creation,
to cleanse the lepers and to make the blind to see,
and to forgive the sins of sinners who turn to Him.

A leper met our Saviour
walking along the road with His disciples.
And he began to make supplication with lively insistence:
"Lord, have compassion on my misery."

Our Saviour replied to the leper:
"I will. Be cleansed from the leprosy."
And as soon as the word of the Saviour was pronounced,
he was delivered of his leprosy and began to sing
the praise of the Lord who had granted him health.

Christ, All-merciful, who with a word
cured this leper who asked it of You,
in the mercy of Your grace cure our diseases,
cleanse our stains and forgive our faults and transgressions.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who is the Good Physician of the sick, the Invincible Strength of the weak, and the Inexhaustible Treasure of the poor. He encourages and consoles those who are sad. He gives joy and gladness to the afflicted. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, Physician of the bodies and souls, You love our poor race stricken and wounded as it is. In the time of your Saving Economy You healed the sick people whom You met. You drove out the fever of the mother-in-law of Peter and You raised the daughter of Jairus. By extending Your hand full of healing, You cleansed the leper and You healed from her severe bleeding the woman who with faith touched the hem of Your cloak. You gave to see the light to the two blind men who besought You saying: "Son of David, have pity on us!". You who are the Light of Light which enlightens the darkness of this world. In Your love for humankind You inclined Yourself towards the publicans, and showed them the way and the path of Your lifegiving commandments. You forgave the adulteress in the defilement of her sins and in Your extreme graciousness You gave her full pardon and purification... In the abundance of Your mercy, You pardoned the sins and the faults of those who asked You; You opened the eyes of Bartimaeus with saliva and mud and gave new light to his darkened pupils. By Your word you calmed the violent movement of the sea. You gave to the Canaanite woman the cure of her daughter in regard for her faith... You delivered from his bed of pain the paralysed man who had been afflicted for thirty eight years; With a little bread you fed a large crowd of hungry people... You drove Satan and his powers from him who had a legion by the force of Your powerful word; You cleansed the ten lepers, giving them healing. You washed away the dirt of sin from the sinful woman who washed Your feet and You caused her action to be recorded in the proclamation of salvation. When You were invited to Cana-in Galilee, You changed the water into wine and by the accomplishment of this miracle You gave joy to the bridegroom and his guests. You subdued the pride and the passion of domination of the Enemy when the Spirit drove You into the desert to be tempted there. You praised the sincerity of the faith of the centurion and granted the cure of

his servant. You resurrected three dead people: the son of the widow, the daughter of Jairus and Lazarus Your friend.

It is on account of all these that we make supplication to You, Lord. In Your infinite goodness, extinguish in us the burning of the incitements to sin, purify our minds and our bodies from the leprosy of sinfulness, heal our brokenness by the power of Your right hand. Enlighten the eyes of our minds by the light of Your knowledge and prepare us for the glory of Your Majesty and that of Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Gracious Physician sent by the Father to the earthly ones
to heal the wounds and sicknesses of mortal men,
You were walking on the way when a leper approached You, crying:
"Lord, if You will You can make me clean."
With Your word You stretched forth Your hand full of healing
and he was cleansed of his leprosy
and sang the praise of the Physician who had given him health.

The mother-in-law of Peter was laid up with a high fever.
You laid Your hands on her and she rose quickly from her bed
and began to serve the people as she was accustomed
showing herself in perfect health as ever before.
Praise to that Physician who lowered the Greatness of His Majesty and walked with the sons of men, curing and making whole
the diseases of the race of Adam.

Glory be to the Father...

How fair is our Saviour who going along the roads
healed every wound by His word or rather by His command.
The leper met Him and cried, "Lord, if You will, command
and I shall be cleansed of the leprosy which torments me."
And instantly the leprosy left him and he sang the praise
of the Physician who had given him health.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Physician of diseases and word of the Heavenly Father,
You who from the beginning are with God Your Father,
and in Your love humbled Yourself
so as to become, of Your own will, a son of man,
You attended and healed the leper of his leprosy.
Praise to You who give life to sinners in many ways.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

By the incense of pardon, sinners are reconciled with You.
Those who are stained are washed, the unclean are made pure.
The blind are enlightened and the lepers are cleansed.
The paralysed are healed, the sick are restored to health
and the dead are raised to life.

Do You, Lord, raise up to You the perfume of our incense.
Let our requests and supplications enter in at Your door.
Direct us who are in want to Your treasure house.
Fill our emptiness with your fulness,
and we will offer praise and thanksgiving,
to You, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came and walked on earth
according to the Divine Dispensation, Your Economy of Salvation.
You healed the sick, You cleansed the lepers and raised the dead.

Christ who descended to heal the sick and to make them whole.
heal our diseases, bind our wounds and be gracious to the whole world.
You who forgive sins and are full of compassion for all,
have pity on the weak who expose their needs to You.
May Your Cross guard the assemblies of Your Churches,
and with Your medicines tend and heal the diseases of their people.

Bind up the broken-hearted. Give health to the sick.
Forgive the sins and faults of all those who are oppressed,
You who are the Bestower of Health and Pardon.
Blessed is Your treasure-house
which does not leave in need those who turn to You.

Glory to the Father who sent His Son for our salvation.
Adoration to the Son who according to His Economy trod our earth.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies the world,
and while hovering over it He gives it new life.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
By His deeds He manifests His power to His people,
that He might give them the heritage of the nations.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Jesus, no one works wonders like You.
Your works testify that the Father is with You.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Matthew 8:1-13 Jesus takes away our diseases.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast p.32

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep... p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve... p.9

RESPONSE
It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise
singing the threefold hallowing "Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The Winged Creatures bless You. The Fiery Ones hallow Your Name.
The sons of men on earth sing holy, holy to You.
Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Praise to the Heavenly Physician who descended on earth from the highest heaven to heal the wounds and diseases of the children of men
Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The lepers saw You and they were made clean.
The blind met You and they saw the light.
You made the mother-in-law of Peter whole,
when You drove away her fever. Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Be to us the Heavenly Physician. Heal and cure our diseases.
Be to us holiness and sanctity. Sanctify us by Your sacrifice.
Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Let our supplication enter into Your presence, O God of graciousness,
and from Your treasury send us, who make supplication to You,
compassion, mercy and forgiveness. Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who is One in Three and the Three are One:
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one true God.
Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 119 (118):33-48 Teach me the demands of Your statutes...

RESPONSE
Lord, make Your love dwell in our hearts
that we may walk in the path of freedom.
How we long for Your precepts.
Truly Your commands are our delight.

Brothers, let us behave like free men
yet never use freedom as an excuse for selfishness.
Freedom prompts us to serve in the spiritual way.
It is for this that God sends His Spirit into our hearts.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in his love and care for humankind...
As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, Night Vigil, Ist Watch, p.35

Hymn

Compassion poured forth from the Sea Full of Good Things.
He ordered the unclean body to be purified and it was made clean.
He breathed out His love like air and drove out sickness.
All those who saw Him acclaimed and praised Him for His healing.

Good Physician of our souls, You descended from Your place
to cure and heal the diseases of all the sick.
By Your word You made the leper clean, as You have pity on all.
Blessed is the Father who sent You to relieve our sufferings.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The leper said: "What have I done to be outlawed by Moses?
Is it not the will of the Lord that all be perfect in Him?
Consider me and give me what I should have and not be a leper".
Blessed is He who in His boundless love healed the leper.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

And the Lord said to him: "Go, show yourself to the priests.
Offer the sacrifice of purification enjoined by the Law.
Go, they will see that you are clean from all impurity,
and have fulfilled all that Moses commands. Do not be ashamed."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 119 (118) : 49-64 Remember Your word to Your servants...

RESPONSE
Remember Your word to Your servants
by which You give us hope.
We think of Your name in the night time,
pondering over the works of Your love.

With all our heart we long for You in the night,
we seek You eagerly when dawn breaks.
We meditate on Your word of truth
the truth, as you said, that sets us free.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Heavenly Physician who in His goodness...
As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.37

Hymn

Our Lord made a miracle at Cana, a town in Galilee.
The people saw the wonder and marvelled and believed in Him.
They realized that He was the Son of God.
They understood that He had come to make the world
turn to the knowledge of truth and belief.

The Good Physician was sent by the Father to the earthly ones
to cure all sicknesses and heal all infirmities.
The lepers met Him and were made whole.
The paralytics were brought to Him and they were healed.
The sinners who turned to Him had their sins forgiven.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

By a single word the Giver of all Health made the leper clean,
who besought Him and prayed so pitifully:
"O Compassionate Lord, if You will You can make me clean."
Jesus stretched out His hand, and with a word the leper was cured.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus was invited to the town of Cana
and those who were feasting were in need of wine.
The Sea of Compassion bubbled.
and He changed the water into wine.
Glory to Him whom all acclaimed as God.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord to our departed... p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who healed all the sick.

In Your compassion relieve our sufferings
and deliver us from all evil.

Seeing the large crowd our Lord was moved to pity.
He ordered them all to sit down on the ground by batches.
And giving thanks to God He multiplied the loaves for 4000.
Then He went up the mountain with His disciples
and they believed in Him and saw His glory.

A leper approached Christ, beseeching Him,
"Lord, if You will, You can cure me of my loathsome disease,
I have become a stranger to all those who know me.
May Your medicine heal me, Lord, the Strong."

Creator of all things and Ruler of all that lives,
stretch forth Your hand and touch those who beseech You.
Cleanse them and heal them from their diseases,
and we will all give thanks and praise for ever and ever.

Glory to You, Merciful Physician.
Glory to You, Purifier of all defilement.
Glory to You, Healer of all suffering.
Glory to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them we offer... p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Monday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Monday, p.41, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who pardons offences and receives the penitents and takes delight in the life and the conversion of sinners. Pardon us, Lord, and cleanse us and all, Your servants, true believers, from every stain of sin, that purified by You, we may offer praise and thanksgiving at this time of evening...

We make supplication to You, Lord God, Refuge of the oppressed and Forgiver of sinners, Lover and Receiver of penitents, Shepherd and Gatherer of the lost, Helper and Comforter of the estranged, Father and Provider of the poor, who rejoice in our repentance. Do not disregard our petitions for we have no chief or leader among us who may be found worthy to intercede with confidence for us, having all sinned and acted impiously in Your sight.

We offer You, therefore, with us, for all and on behalf of all, all those who pleased You by their way of life. Above all we call to Your mind the precious and holy sufferings of Your Beloved Son, by which You were inclined to be gracious to us. We beseech You, O God, receive the sighs and the heartfelt repentance of us sinners and offenders, Your servants. Remember Your compassion and Your mercies to our race, and Your covenants and promises to our fathers. Make us worthy that with those who pleased You in all generations we may praise Your Graciousness, God the Father, and Your Beloved Son and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Immaterial Fire who quenched the burning flame
from the bodies of the young men who practised abstinence,
kindle, Lord, the fire of Your love in our hearts.

And let the confession of our lips ascend like a fragrant incense
to Your abode of everlasting beauty, and by restraint and self-control
may we be freed from the burning fire of the passions.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8

Mt 7: 1-12 Do not judge... Ask and it will be given...

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Tuesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Tuesday, p. 55, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. — We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... — Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Gracious One, compassionate and long suffering, full of goodness and truth, the Healer of all diseases who binds up all wounds, the Hidden Strength unsearchable by the mind and which cannot be declared by the tongue nor comprehended by the intellect. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

God who do not take pleasure in the destruction of Your creature but have compassion on our sinful and mortal nature which fell from the nobility of the first creation which was of great beauty, Your graciousness, Lord, inclined You to become a son of man, of Your own will, one of the human family, to make them, out of goodness, sons of God Your Father. Thus You went in search of our nature which had fallen, and You found it and bore it on Your holy shoulders and made it enter with You the house of Your Father, and You reconciled it with Him who begot You, by Your precious blood shed on Your saving Cross for our sake.

And now be pleased with us, Lord, in Your graciousness, and make us turn away from the scandal of sin. Heal our sores. Cleanse the thoughts of our minds and bring us to the way of life. Our Lord, do not send us into the outer darkness like the idle servant who hid his talent in the earth and did not trade with it. But on account of Your graciousness proper to Your nature, forgive us who are offenders, pardon the guilty, put right the sinner, restrain the licentious. Purify those who are stained, have compassion on all and make them the guests of Your wedding feast, where we will praise

You in a holy manner with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ our Saviour, be to us an armour of salvation
that we may withstand the craftiness of the Adversary,
and receive this fragrant incense which we in our weakness
offer to the honour of Your Godhead.

Make us worthy to come to the Communion of the Holy Passover
in purity and holiness, with joy and gladness,
and we will praise You and adore You who are worshipped eternally.
The spiritual ones adore You and those who are in the flesh
exalt You with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 9 : 8-17 The Cosmic Covenant.
Si 4 : 1-18 Do not refuse the poor a livelihood.
Jn 3 : 13-18 Let the wise show His wisdom in humility.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The Word of God is alive... p.8
Mt 7:13-20 The narrow gate... the tree will be known by its fruits.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Wednesday in the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Tuesday, p. 55, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Saviour who fasted for us and saved us from the enslavement to sin, the Pardoner of sinners who conversed with publicans and harlots to make sinners to turn to the way of the truth. To the Hearer of prayers and petitions who prayed for us and taught us to pray and to make supplication that He might show us His graciousness and goodness. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Christ, Great King of Glory whose door is open to sinners, Good Companion of those who walk with You, and who deliver them from the entanglements of this world, an ocean of sinfulness. By You the poor through fasting obtain to see the Father, by You the sick are healed from their infirmities and the blind are enlightened by the light of Divine Goodness. You made famous, by their prolonged fasting, the zealous monks, who throughout their life lived in restraint from the satisfaction of the senses. Christ God, You clothed with ineffable glory those who fasted earnestly and the glorious ascetics. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit rejoice in the abstinence and fasting, joined with love. Their divine power rests on those who fast, and dwells with them and accompanies them. By fast which is a spiritual mother, holy baptism is renewed in us and we become true children of God the Father. By fast and abstinence the Holy Spirit whom we have received from the waters of baptism, rests on us unweariedly and fills us with divine thoughts. By fasting we remain vigilant in our service. By fasting and charity we please our Creator, and Christ our God weaves garlands of glory for us. He then makes us sit with those who did His will, where we will offer praise and thanksgiving without ceasing to Him and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Those on high whom You made adore You,
O Adorable and Glorious One.
And those on earth glorify You,
Gracious One and Hearer of all fair requests.

And now we make supplication to You, Lord,
that You may receive from our hands this fragrant incense.
Give health to the sick, consolation to the sorrowing

and relief to the oppressed. And in Your graciousness
grant peace to the whole world, that we may offer praise
and thanksgiving to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit...

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 11 : 1-9 The tower of Babel.
Jb 1 : 1-12 Job is to be severely tried by Satan.
Jn 4 : 13-17 He who knows the good he ought to do, and does not do it, is a sinner.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8

Mt 7:21-29 The Kingdom is not for those who indulge in the idle repetition of the Lord's name, but for those who act upon His word.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Thursday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Thursday, p. 79, except the following: Eucharistic Prayer, Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Living Essence, adorable and life-giving, hidden and unconceivable and not to be expressed, equal in power and in being, of one authority, royal dignity and possessing one will by nature, to whom

belongs honour and sovereignty and divinity, one nature and operation but three persons, three adorable names, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

We beseech You, Lord God, make us worthy to wash our rational faculties in the waters of the Spirit, according to Your instruction. Anoint our spiritual insights with the gladness of good actions, according to Your teachings. Engrave in each of our senses Your living law according to Your will, and bring all our interior and exterior faculties under the gentle yoke of Your Holy Spirit. Make us persevere zealously in the doing of good works, that we may be found among the labourers who during these holy days have become more diligent in the fulfilment of Your will.

By Your grace may we be worthy to take our pleasure in the Holy Feast of Your Glorious Passover and Resurrection, while we are clothed in the garments of virtue, and arrayed in the shining robes of Justice, so that with confidence which is becoming to those who seek You in truth, we may approach that Mystic and Sacred Table, and be gladdened by the delight of the Passover, and utter unceasing praise in purity and offer thanksgiving without end in holiness, Lord, and through You and with You to Your Hidden Father who sent You for our salvation, and to Your Holy Spirit who takes pleasure in our lives, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

God who receive the fast and the prayers of the just,
be pleased with the good odour of this incense
which we offer to You, an offering of love,
and thereby bestow on us the pardon of all transgressions.

Strengthen us that we may fast for You
in purity and holiness and, according to Your will,
and run the whole race of this Holy Fast,
and partake of the Mysteries of Your Glorious Passover.
And we will offer praise and thanksgiving
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 12:1-9 God calls Abraham.
Jb 1:13-22 Job's children and wealth are destroyed.
Jm 4:11-12 Do not speak evil against one another.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8
Lk 11:1-13 Jesus prays and teaches His disciples how to pray.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Friday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Friday, p. 92, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who is invisible and manifested Himself in a human body and in His human nature waged combat with Satan and was known among people to be God and Son of God, who came for our salvation and fasted, not because he had need of it, but that He might teach us the way to righteousness. Him we adore and thank and praise, at this time of evening...

Lord, strong and abounding in graciousness, You are an oil of sweetness overflowing with all good things and a fountain of blessings. You have dealt with us with an abundance of goodness, and in a multitude

of different ways you are giving the helps fitting to Your creation, and especially to those who knock at the door of repentance and seek Your graciousness and goodness. May we also, Lord, be true penitents and good labourers in all things which are pleasing to You, as You did to our forefathers by Your Gospel and made them a fair model for all sinners, that those who look on them may not lose the hope of repentance. You kept back the sentence of judgement which was threatened against them and You removed the sword drawn against them.

We therefore also beg of You, Lord our God, that You will not consume us in Your zeal but instruct us with a father's affection... O Lord, grant us that we may seek and love and cleave to You alone. Guard us with all Your watchful care and fill us with the joy of Your salvation. Make us experience Your love for humankind. Make us worthy of the crown of those who have laboured well, and of the happiness of those who have done good things, and of the joy of those who share with the poor and bring relief to the oppressed. Forgive us the multitude of our sins and pardon the faults of us all and we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ our God, Lord of the evening,
Lord of all seasons and fulfiller of all times,
hear the voice of our supplication,
and be pleased with our incense, our fasting and our prayer,
and in Your goodness grant our requests.

Send us abundant tokens of Your kindliness
and enlighten us with the spiritual light of Your Godhead,
that we may offer You praise and thanksgiving
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 13 : 1-13 Abraham and Lot separate.
Jb 2 : 1-10 Satan tests Job more severely.
1 P 1 : 1-7 Greetings and thanksgiving for our new birth that enables us to rejoice even if suffering overtakes us

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8.

Lk 18: 1-8 The widow and the judge.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of You mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Saturday of the Great Fast
Ephrem and Isaac Teachers of Prayer
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be the Father....(page -1)

Opening Prayer

Lord God, grant that we may grow to maturity by the spirit of the prophets, and be strengthened in the faith by the example of the apostles, and our lives be ennobled by the victory of the martyrs, our minds be enlightened by the wisdom of the doctors, and our hearts enlarged with the perfection of all the saints, that we may keep the memory of our great teachers of prayer, Ephrem and Isaac, with the purity and joy which is well pleasing to You, so that we may one day rejoice with them in Your Kingdom, our Lord and our God for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 19 (18) The heavens tell the praise of the Lord...

RESPONSE

From pride preserve Your servants. Never let it dominate over us,
O Lord, then only shall we be free from grave sin.
May the words of our mouths always find favour in Your presence
and the silent whisperings of our hearts be well pleasing to You.
Your word shines clear, Jesus, it gives light to our minds.
It is sweeter than honey, pure honey from the comb.

By the testimony of Your way of life, O Chosen Ones,
Ephrem and Isaac, great teachers of prayer,
You put on Christ as Your garment, and by His Holy Spirit
He unveiled for you the Mysteries of Divine Wisdom
to teach the believers to proclaim: "You are blessed for ever,
God of our Fathers, Lord of the whole creation."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

Blessed are you, our chosen fathers, Ephrem and Isaac,
Your Lord saw the beauty of your way of life
and was pleased with you and with your service
May your prayer be with us.

Blessed are you who are like a choice incense
and your fragrance gives delight to God Most High.
On account of it He honours and magnifies your memory
in the four quarters of the earth.

Blessed are you who were given to be refreshing springs
and from you flow life-giving waters.
The Church and all her people
drink from them unceasingly.

Blessed are you, our fathers, your crowns are made.
They are waiting for you and will be put on your heads
on the day when the Son of the King will come
in His great glory and all the angels with Him.

Glory to the Father who chose you, Noble Ephrem and Isaac.
Thanksgiving to the Son who adorned His Church with you.
Adoration to the Holy Spirit who through you declared the truth.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who by His saving coming trod the way of life by which the sons of men journey to the Heavenly Kingdom. And He moved the fathers of the Church by His Holy Spirit to reveal the hidden secrets of His truth and to teach the Mysteries of His divine knowledge. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Praise and thanksgiving to You Jesus Christ our God who placed in Your holy Church two doctors of light that they might enlighten her at all times and reveal to the people of God the hidden things of Your Wisdom. One was Ephrem the deacon, monk of Nisibis, and the other Isaac, called the Syrian, priest illustrious among the solitaries of the region of Nineveh. We keep their memory today in common while we remember before You the beauty of their way of life, that we may be helped by their prayer and enriched by the grace that You make to flow from their teachings... We are set on fire with Your love and strengthened in the true faith which they taught us by their deeds and their writings. And as they endured great afflicitions, we are made strong and firm by the hope for which they lived. Who is able to tell the story of their holiness and perfection of virtue? The mountains and rocks where they lived in communion with You and with the creation bear witness to the loftiness of their way of life, to their humility and purity, their austerity of life and assiduity in watching and prayer. All their writings bear the scent of conversion to You, with that repentance that softens the heart, however hard it may be.

Therefore we who celebrate their common remembrance beseech You, Lord, by their prayers, that we may grow in true poverty of spirit and in purity of heart and experience the beatitudes and other virtues to which in Your Gospel Tidings You promised a blessing for those who labour in them. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

O Ephrem, God led Your heart captive with His love
and enlightened Your mind with divine wisdom.
He filled You with great zeal for the life of the Churches,
to spread the true doctrine through your spiritual hymns.
Streams of divine teachings flowed from your heart
to quench the thirst of all the true believers.

When Ambrose of Milan was persecuted by the emperor,
the believers kept vigil in the church, in constant prayer.
They introduced the practice of singing hymns and psalms
in keeping with the usage of the Eastern Churches,
and their example was followed in many other places
in almost all the Churches throughout the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Isaac, you made illustrious the regions of Nineveh.
When you had become exercised in the writings of the Church
you withdrew into the solitude of the mountains
where you penetrated deeply into the Divine Mysteries
and you wrote spiritual books on the behaviour of solitaries.
You are for us the great teacher of prayer and spiritual perfection.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Placid, humble and kind with all, your speech was gentle,
and you left us volumes full of sweet doctrine and life.
Because of unceasing reading of the holy books
you became blind, but the brothers wrote down your teachings
on what you had attained by the contemplation of the scriptures,
the teachings of the great fathers and your spiritual experience

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

May this sweet incense which we offer to You, Lord,
on the day of the remembrance of our great teachers,
Ephrem the monk deacon of Nisibis and Isaac the hermit priest,
be pleasing to Your Lordship, O Lord of lords.

May our praise and thanksgiving be acceptable to Your Godhead
and, joined with their prayer, be well pleasing in Your sight,
that tranquillity, peace, sweetness and joy
may reign in the Churches and in the whole creation

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Noble Isaac,
May the Lord always hear your prayers
and through His Holy Spirit pour His love into our hearts.

By your prayers, O Ephrem, illustrious among the fathers,
may we come to believe more and more in Jesus,
that streams of living water may pour out from our hearts.

O the beauty of prayer with tears, so dear to Isaac,
by which the heart recovers the purity of its Creator,
the mind shines forth with light and insight,
and the spirit is illumined, filled with peace and serenity.

As at times the radiance of the sun is hidden,
some unexplained darkness may fall upon the mind.
The heart should not be troubled or fall into dejection,
but patiently occupy itself with the writings of divine men,
and gently force itself to prayer, looking up for help.

Tears during prayer are a sign of divine graciousness,
a sign that our repentance has been accepted.
The heart enters the plains of peace and serenity,
and the mind finds the wisdom and power that come from grace.

Glory to the Father who delights in the prayer of the heart.
Adoration to the Son who teaches perseverance in prayer.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit whose joy we experience in prayer
and who gave to Saint Isaac the gift of prayer with tears.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
There is a stream whose waters gladden the city of God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
If anyone is thirsty let him come to Me.
Ephrem and Isaac believed, and drank deep.
Streams of living waters poured out from their hearts.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 7:37-39A Streams of living water will flow...

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all."

Christ our God who made to flow over all the earth streams of living water through the lives and writings of our great teachers of prayer, Ephrem and Isaac, who taught us by words and deeds, make to flow to us from their hearts the waters of life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray that the monastic charism so prominent in this our country of India may be revealed as the great sign of the unity of all seekers of God, in spite of the divisions prevailing among the great religions, their orders and congregations, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray that the love of our brothers in the monastic life all over the world and especially in India and Asia may become deeply rooted in our hearts, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, who taught Your disciples to pray, on this feast of our teachers Ephrem and Isaac, make our churches true houses of prayer, where we meet You in our assemblies, and make Your Spirit come to dwell in our hearts where He joins with our spirit to make us aware that we are children of Your Father, Your own brothers and sisters, and temples of the Holy Spirit, and we will say three times, glory to You, O God, glory to You, O God, glory to You, now and always and for ever. Amen.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE AND FIRST WATCH FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD

As on the Commemoration of Saints Ephrem and Theodore, p.111

SECOND WATCH FOR SAINT ISAAC

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 43 (42) Defend me, O God, and plead my cause...

RESPONSE

O Lord, send forth Your light and Your truth to guide us,
lead us to Your Holy Mountain, the place where You dwell.
There we shall be with You, O God of our joy,
and praise You on the harp, O God of our delight.

O Father, You have given them to Me,
I desire that they be with Me where I am,
that they may contemplate My glory, the glory You gave Me,
for You loved Me before the world was made.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Eternal Word of the Father who gives wisdom to the renowned fathers, and by whose grace they teach us the way of spiritual perfection. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Praise and thanksgiving to You, Jesus Christ, our Master and Teacher, who were led by the Spirit into the desert and in solitary places on the mountains, and spent days and nights in prayer to God. Praise to You who called Your servant Isaac to follow You in the solitary life, and when he had been called to preside over the Church of Nineveh and could not endure the pastoral ministry, You led him back to his beloved solitude among the hermits in the mountains to minister before You alone. You taught him the way of spiritual perfection through the prayer of the heart, a prayer free from cares and concern for oneself, a prayer that gives to the mind a delicious taste, with deep insights in the mystery of Your love, exalted above the senses, when grace opens the eyes of the mind to perceive things which eye has not seen and ear of flesh cannot hear. Yet this did not put Your servant beyond temptation. As he himself confessed, when he would fail to command the spirit and had no courage, even to fall upon his face in prayer, he would wrap his head in his shawl and simply lie down till the hour of darkness was over.

We beseech You therefore, O Lord who impressed on the minds of Your disciples the need to persevere in prayer and to be unceasing in it, strengthen us, Your devotees, that we may overcome weariness at prayer, for such temptation befalls those who set out to walk all the way of spiritual discipline and who build their house on the rock of faith in You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Through the experience of the saints
may we realise the beauty and glory to which we are called.
It made the martyrs drunk with love.
It drove the apostles to the far ends of the earth,
It made the hermits to enter the desert
and the monks to make their dwelling on high mountains.

A lover of solitude and of unceasing prayer, O Isaac,
you taught your disciples and need of a merciful heart,
a heart burning with love for the whole creation,
for men, for birds and beasts, and for the humble blade of grass
even for demons and whatever exists.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

A merciful heart is a heart that becomes soft like flesh
so that by recollection or at the sight of any creature,
the eyes shed tears on account of the vehemence of the affection
which moves it with intense love and compassion.
A merciful heart, at all times, offers prayers with tears.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

A merciful heart is unable to bear hearing or seeing injury,
or suffering, however insignificant, in the creation,
even on behalf of irrational beings or enemies of the truth.
A merciful heart offers prayers even for those who harm him,
so that they may obtain a conversion and find mercy.
A merciful heart, at all times, offers prayers with tears.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord... p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord... p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayer of Your servants Ephrem and Isaac.

By the prayer of those who loved You so much,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Who would not proclaim blessed
those who are for us fountains of holy teachings?
Who would not offer praise with joy
to our fathers Ephrem and Isaac, the sweet springs of life?

On this day on which we celebrate
your remembrance, O holy fathers,
pray and ask from your Lord
to make His peace reign all over the creation.

O Illustrious Ephrem and Noble Isaac,
never cease to offer supplication to God for His people.
And may the wisdom of your teachings
make the Holy Churches resplendent with the glory of the Lord.

Glory to the Father who chose you.
Thanksgiving to the Son and the Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity.
And on us His love and compassion.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of the Paralytic

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...(page 1)

Opening Prayer

O God, Exalted Word, Power and Wisdom of the Father, You cured the paralyzed man laid on his bed, healing at the same time the paralysis of soul and body when You ordered him to take up his bed, saying to him, "Your sins are forgiven." Heal now, Lord, the paralysis of our souls and bodies. Forgive our sins and faults, that we may praise You in holiness, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, my soul...

RESPONSE

Lord God, You are great indeed,
clothed in majesty and splendour.
You set the earth on its foundation
to stand firm from age to age.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys
and their water flows between the hills.
They give drink to all the beasts of the field.
All living beings quench their thirst.

Psalm 145 Praise the Lord, my soul...

RESPONSE

The paralyzed man who had been cured cried out :
"I will go and announce in the whole world,
'Behold, the Good Physician has come
who heals freely, without taking fees.'"
With him we cry out and say: "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation."

To save men on earth, God humbles Himself to fasting.
He gives liberty to the prisoners.
He makes the blind to see and the dumb to speak
that they may cry out : "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

The dead who were being carried to the grave
You raised by Your command.
And the man with the withered hand
who made supplication to You, You answered.

Source of Life and Fountain of Goodness
sent from heaven to the earthly ones,
You pour forth Your wealth upon the earth
and You enrich us with Your gifts.

By You the lepers are cleansed,
the paralyzed recover their health,
sinners receive forgiveness of their faults,
even the dead obtain resurrection and life.
For Adam who was sick and overcome by sin
You laid bare Your graciousness,
You poured out Your compassion on his children,
You healed their diseases and made them whole.

The paralyzed man had not even called on You
but out of goodness You forgave him his sins
and You restored his limbs and sent him home.

Harbour of rest and Physician who does not take fees,
You tore the register of the sins of the sinful woman who shed tears,
and to encourage the penitents You ordered her memory
to be recorded in the Gospel and proclaimed in the whole world.

Who would not believe that He is God?
Who would not accept that He has taken flesh?
Who would not confess that He is the power of the Father
who has humbled Himself to heal our diseases in His compassion?
Glory to Him who came and saved us!

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Gracious Physician who was sent by the Father into the world and He healed its sickness, and in His goodness He bound up the wounds of sinful man with His divine medicines, to Him, who in the graciousness for which He was besought by humankind when He became flesh, saved us by His own blood from suffering of body and soul, to Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Christ our God, Gracious Physician who open the ulcers of our souls without pain and heal the abcess of the whole world by the sweet balm of Your compassion, You are the Fountain of Mercy from which the water of Your help flows to every place and Your gifts are distributed in every region. You are the Precious Pearl whom the poor acquire and they are made rich. You are the Treasure-house of Blessings which the needy find and it fills them with joy, the Table of Delights at which the hungry eat and they are satisfied... You are the Joyous Wine which the guests drank and they were filled with love. You are the Garment of Glory in which they are clothed... You are the Light-giving Lamp which the blind have seized and it makes them see the light... You are the Power of the Father which makes the lame to walk and restores the paralyzed to strength. You are the Word of God who open the ears of the deaf and untie the tongues of the mute.

On account of all these gifts with which You visited us in Your love which cannot be repaid, we make supplication to Your Graciousness, Lord, visit the weak with Your strength and relieve those who are oppressed with a sign of Your coming. Heal the afflicted by Your help... confirm the weak by Your compassion, comfort those who are dejected by Your consolation. Make those who have gone astray return to Your knowledge. Gather those who are scattered. Forgive sinners in Your goodness and grant to all those who have followed You in Your Passover to rejoice in Your Kingdom because You are good and the Lover of Man. And we will offer You praise, and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Our Saviour saw the paralyzed man brought before Him
through an opening in the tiles of the roof and said to him,
"Your sins are forgiven; they are the cause of your disease.
Rise and take up your bed and go to your house. Be joyful
and thank and praise the Physician who has given you health."

The Uniquely Beloved Son of the Father descended upon earth.
In His love He became man to heal the sick and comfort the afflicted.
He cured the diseases and the wounds of the poor children of Adam,
and all marvelled and glorified God saying,
"You would never believe the things our eyes have seen."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Compassionate Physician sent to the earthly ones
to heal sufferings and diseases and to make our nature whole.
show Your compassion and be gracious to our weakness.
Forgive our debts and offences, and grant, Lord,
that we may bear fruits of peace according to Your will
and obtain pardon from You and be reconciled with You.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to You, Lord, who dwell in the heart of the Father,
Image and Reflection of the Hidden Being of God,
Light shining from the beginning before all ages,
Treasure full of good things, Physician and Healer of all diseases,
make Your peace and tranquillity reign in the four quarters of the earth.

In Your bounty and Your love, Lord our Lord, make memory
of the dead who have eaten Your body and drank Your blood
and who now rest and sleep in the hope of Your Name.
When You shall come to judge the peoples and the tribes,
raise them up, Lord, at Your right side.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ, Pure Incense, in Your tenderness,
You washed away the impurities of the family of Adam,
and by Your Economy in the flesh You manifested Yourself
as the Light of the believers and the Saviour of the world.

Receive our incense and hear our petitions. Pardon our faults
and the sins of those who have followed You in Your Passover,
that we may all be worthy of the glory of Your Majesty
and that of Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who heal the afflicted.

In Your compassion relieve our sufferings and deliver us from all evil.

The Good News of the Son spread in the far regions.
They came in large numbers, the sick and the afflicted,
and pressed in, for the country was filled with people
who had come to receive help from the Treasury of all Goods.
All day His light shone and at every hour His compassion
was poured out and reached all who surrounded Him.

Blessed is the Physician who has been sent to heal the diseases
and bind up the wounds of man and is full of compassion for Adam,
poor creature of dust decaying in corruption.
The lepers saw Him and were cleansed and the blind saw the light.
He gave life to the Samaritan woman and pardoned the sinful woman
Glory to Him, and to Him who sent Him, whose grace is strong.

Lord, our race confesses You because You have healed its wounds
and the demons on hearing Your voice take fear and fly.
By Your command they take refuge in the swine.
Lord of all, You have bestowed Your ointments on our wounds.
You have lifted us up and You draw us to Yourself.
Blessed are You the Rich One who invite all to share in Your riches.

The sick whom You have cured confess that You are God.
The bent whose backs You have straightened worship You, the Creator
and the dead You have raised sing glory to You.
The crowds whom You satisfied with a little bread
offer thanks, and worship Your Name infinitely mysterious.
Blessed be Your power which gives food to all creatures.
Blessed is Your love which has compassion on all,
You by whom all the nations are saved.

Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who heal the afflicted.

In Your compassion relieve our sufferings and deliver us from all evil.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Jesus, no one worked wonders like You.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
You manifested Your power to the people
and they saw Your glory.
Your works testify that the Father is with You.
for God alone can forgive sings.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 5:17-26 Jesus heals the paralytic brought before Him through
tiled roof.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to
. intercessions and answer all together with joy
earnestness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the wh
world"

Christ our God who taught us to meditate unceasingly on Your w
help us always to draw the light and strength of our life from Your Gospel
beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, Healer of all diseases and Destroyer of all evil, who came to alleviate all our ills, fulfil now the people's restless search for liberation and freedom, and strengthen them in their struggle for justice and peace, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace of the Churches and the serenity of all ashrams and monasteries, and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, grant us by a renewed faith in You and the testimony of good works, to prepare ourselves for the Passover celebrations, Your blessed Passion, Death and Resurrection, that we may become partakers of Your promises, and the world may know Your love and be filled with all the fulness of God, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep... p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you... p.9

RESPONSE

It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate one.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
make us also, earthly ones, keep vigil to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The Son of the Good One brought us medicines from His Father
and healed our diseases by the secret power of His gifts.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

By a word You made whole the man who had long been a leper,
on account of his faith the plague of leprosy fled from him.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The paralytic who had been bed-ridden for 38 years rejoiced with hope
when he heard of the cures of Jesus, the Healer of all ills.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

He prayed to Him asking: "Heal me, Lord, in Your compassion."
And Jesus said to him" "Take up your bed and go home happy."
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 119 (118):65-80 Lord, You have been good to Your servant...

RESPONSE

It was good for us to be afflicted,
the better to learn Your commandments.
Now let Your love come and we shall live,
and Your law will be our delight.

You gave speech to the dumb and hearing to the deaf,
give us to praise You in words as well as by hearing.
The weak grow strong and the sick are healed.
The hungry are given their fill and they sing praise for the gift.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His love and care for humankind...
As at the Night Vigil of the First Sunday of the Great Fast p.35

Hymn

Our Saviour went up to Jerusalem for the feast
and He found there a paralyzed man who had been sick for a long time.
And He said to Him, "Take up your bed, rejoice and go to your house."
The sick man rose at once and began to walk, giving thanks to God.
And all the people who saw it were amazed at the miracle.

Our Lord passed under the Portico of Solomon
and found there a crowd of sick people who had come in search of Him.
The Power of God was with Him to heal the sick.
He cured them and gave health to the paralyzed man saying to him,
"Stand up on your feet and be strong and go home, happy,
and give thanks and praise to the Physician who made you whole."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

This is the Great Fast, let us go into training for the unseen warfare.
Let us learn how to join battle with the Adversary and defeat him.
Our Lord ordered us to restrain our mouths from eating.
that we may keep evil away from our hearts.
We acclaim and adore the Firstborn of the living
who gave the fast to us that we might be made whole.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord undertook the Holy Fast
and by it He overcame the greed that devours us.
He won great victories and by them He gave us the armour
that will make us obtain the crown of victory.
Who would not run with the armour of the Living God
that gives great victories to the athletes?

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 119(118): 81-96 My soul is longing for Your saving help...

RESPONSE

Had Your law not been our delight,
we would have died in our affliction.
We will not forget Your commandments
for with them You give us life.

The Good Physician saw lying near the pool
the man who had been cripple thirty eight years.
"Rise up to your feet," He said, "Take up your bed and walk home."
The man recovered instantly and began to walk.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Heavenly Physician who in His goodness...
As at the Night Vigil on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p.37

Hymn

As Jesus entered the city He met the funeral procession of a dead man
who was the only son of his widowed mother.
When the Lord saw her His heart was filled with pity.
"O woman," He said, "Weep no more I shall restore your son."

To the dead man He said, "Rise up!" And he began to speak.
And Jesus gave him back to his mother.
Every one was filled with awe and they praised God.
And the news went out through the whole neighbourhood.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre, a woman cried out,
"Son of David, have pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil."
As He did not reply the disciples came to Him to plead for her.
And the woman fell at His feet crying, "Help me!"

From, age to age and for ever. Amen.

Then Jesus answered to the woman, "It is not right
to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."
"Yes," she said, "But the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table!"
"Woman, what faith you have!" Jesus said.
And her daughter was cured.

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed... p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia... p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens... p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who heal the sick.

In your compassion, heal our diseases and deliver us from all evil.

Who else have we like You,
Healer of infirmities and diseases,
who relieve the sufferings of humanity
and forgive our sins.

At the Pool of Bethesda a paralyzed man
had been lying sick for thirty eight years.
The Lord came to pass and ordered him to get up.
And he rose from his stretcher and walked away with it.

Jairus begged Jesus as hard as he could
to come to his house and cure his daughter.
The Sea of Compassion bubbled up
and raised to life the daughter who had died.

Glory to the Eternal Father.
Adoration to the All-compassionate Son
who heals the sufferings of humankind.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.

HYMN OF SAINT ATHANASIUS

As the angels and the archangels sing praise... p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Third Monday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Monday, p.41, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, at the Evening Prayer, all given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the one true God who takes pleasure in the life and salvation of the children of men, and rejoices in noble actions, and in the labours of perfection. Him let us thank and adore and praise, at this time of evening...

Lord, You are the light of what lies hidden in darkness and You try the hearts and the reins of the children of men. You created the days and the nights, one for labour and good things and doing what is right, the other for rest from vain toils. You are indeed a good and gentle Lord, who when You entrusted to us Your priestly ministry, committed to us heavenly gifts by the hands of Your revered high priests and bound us by this sacred work and made us, earthly creatures, after the fashion of the angelic companies, making heaven and earth to be filled with Your praise by psalms and hymns.

Therefore, O Lord, since You have made us worthy to stand before You this evening with grave and sincere minds, make us worthy to praise You. And when You have cut off from us the old nature who belongs to the night, clothe us in the new nature of the morning which is perfected by virtuous actions, and write us in Your book of life, as You promised in Your Gospel full of life, when You said: "Whoever loves me and keeps my commandments, I and My Father will come to him and make Our abode with him". So stay and dwell in us and make us pure temples and holy abodes of Your Majesty. Awaken our minds to the praise of Your name,

that we may not sleep the sleep of negligence and sin, but sing to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and

Holy One who hallow all those who offer You a holy fast
with true faith, accept from us, poor sinners,
this fragrant incense which we present to You.

Cleanse our hearts and hallow our minds.
Make us holy temples for the dwelling of Your Majesty
to the glory and exaltation of the Godhead,
and the praise of Your Divine Name, our Lord and our God.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations Halleluia, halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8

Mk 2:13-20 Matthew's call... "I came to all sinners".

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Third Tuesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Tuesday, p.55, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, at the Evening Prayer, all given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...Praise...

Praise... to the Gracious Lord who descended and became a sign and a figure of salvation for us, and showed us by His fast a lofty way to the heights of heaven. To the Saviour who ordered for us the Mystery of Victory over Satan and prepared for us a crown of glory by means of the virtue of obedience, to Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Christ our God, You were born eternally from the heart of the Father, and were born from the Holy Virgin by a wonderful and ineffable birth, and in Your Economy you walked upon earth after Your circumcisions, and in Your goodness You humbled Yourself in the combat which You fought for us with the Evil One. We also, while we take it up joyfully, stretch out towards all those things which may raise us to closer friendship with You. This is the time of purification from all stains, let no one indulge in thoughts of vanity. This is the time when faults are forgiven, let no one add to his faults. This is the time when the old accounts are torn up, let no one open a new account of offences. This is the time when the door of life is opened, let no one be negligent and remain outside it. This is the time when pain and sorrow are borne patiently, let no one be given to grumbling.

Therefore we also, Lord, whom You have invited to this most profitable Fast in Your love for humankind, make supplication to You that You will bestow on us strength and victory from You, over all the devices of the Evil One, that we may not remain in sin or in indifference, but rather fast in purity and holiness and complete it joyfully and honourably. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ our God, Power and Wisdom of the Father, King of kings,
Lord and Maker of the heavenly ones and the earthly ones,
You humbled Yourself for our salvation
embracing the contempt of men.

Accept now this fragrant incense which we present to You.
Hear our prayers and be reconciled with us by Your fast.
Be pleased with our service that we may offer praise and thanksgiving
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn	18 : 1-8	The Theophany at Mamre.
Jb	14 : 1-12	Job's elegy on human misery.
1 P	1 : 17-21	A call to holiness.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8

Lk 6:43-49 A tree is known by its fruit.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Third Wednesday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Wednesday, p.67, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, at the Evening Prayer, all given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Glorious One to whom the assemblies on high give glory, the Gentle Physician who heals out of goodness all those who approach Him, the Spring of Incorruptible Health who gives to those who drink of it life that does not pass away. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord, Strong and Mighty One, Hidden and Incomprehensible, Hope of all those who are without hope, Wakeful One who never sleep, who at all times are remembered by the just and the righteous, the ascetics and all

those who fast in places that are near or in distant ashrams and monasteries, peoples and nations and tongues, all tell of the power of Your Being. Do You, Lord our God, awaken our hearts which are drowned in worldly concerns, to the watching and service of the angels, and drive from us the spiritual darkness of the night and of vain speech. Open our mouths to Your praise and our lips to Your psalms, our tongues to Your songs, our throats to Your hymns, our eyes that they may see Your righteousness, while we ascend by degrees in our minds and put away the things that are behind, and write on our foreheads Your Great and Sacred Name, and engrave on the tablets of our hearts Your Life-giving Cross.

Therefore we beseech you, Lord God, direct our walking in Your ways that we may love Your teachings which make us wise. And when You appear at the end of the world to give reward to those who watch and work and labour and are weary, we may be worthy to sing to You continual praise without ceasing and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Lord, may Your Godhead be pleased with the sweet spices
which we present before You in our weakness,
as You accepted the incense of our fathers of old,
and you pardoned thereby the offences of Your people.

Grant also peace to Your Churches
and make serenity reign in ashrams and monasteries.
Let there be concord among pastors,
and mutual appreciation among priests and among Your people.
And we will offer praise and thanksgiving
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 32 : 3-13 O God, deliver me... Thou didst say,
I will surely do you good.

Jb 21 : 1-16 Why do the wicked prosper?

I P 1 : 22-25 Our new birth from the word of God.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive. p.8

Mk 10:17-27 The rich young man. Riches an obstacle to salvation.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Third Thursday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Thursday, p.79, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, at the Evening Prayer, all given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Good Lord who has compassion on sinners who repent, and who is pleased with the penitents who turn to Him, the Exalted one, eminent and rich, who loves the needy who beg from Him and rejoices in those who knock at His door asking a share of His gifts. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord our God, do not cast us upon dry breasts, You who from Your all blessed breast shed Your blessings as a torrent of delight upon all. Do not close the way of repentance when You have promised to open the heaven to us. Do not let those who are heirs and children become strangers and aliens, those whom You made beloved friends to become enemies who fight against the Gospel of Your beloved Church. Therefore we beseech You, Lord, that You will receive us in Your love for humankind, and turn Your eyes gladly on all those who turn to You. Lord, be reconciled with

Your servants and Your handmaids. Cherish and console, embrace and comfort Your sons and daughters. Take care of them all. Bind up our open and grievous wounds. Heal our hidden and painful sufferings. Receive the little drops of our eyes, and send down upon us the abundant showers of Your compassion. Accept our prostrations before You and grant us to rise up and to stand before You with Your saints. Thus the poor of Your people beg of the riches of Your goodness. Those who have sinned make supplication to You who take away the sin of the world. The captives hope in the Redeemer, those in bondage in the Liberator. The sick await the Physician, the needy the Great Giver, the dead Him who gives life. Come, then, O Lord, be all things to us and to all people, that You may save Your worshippers, and make them worthy to offer praise, honour and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Lord who are the odour of sweetness of our lives
reveal to all who believe in You
the depth of Your Economy in the flesh
and lead them to the path of true virtue.

Keep us in Your love, Jesus,
that we may always sing praise to You from the heart,
and offer thanksgiving unceasingly,
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 32:22-30 Jacob's wrestling with God, a theophany.
Jb 29:1-20 Job evokes his former happy life.
I P 2:1-10 The Living Stone and the holy nation.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8

Lk 9:51-56 The Son of Man did not come to destroy lives but to save.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Third Friday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Friday, p.92, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, at the Evening Prayer, all given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who takes pleasure in the life and salvation of His creatures. He draws near to those who call upon Him in truth. His hand is stretched out to help those who turn to Him and He passes over the faults of those who repent. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord God, Strong and Mighty One who can do all things, You are patient and long-suffering with us, and You do not blot us out, although we have gone far away and made ourselves strangers to Your friendship and Your discipleship. By the Divine Prophet You cry out and say: "I do not desire the death of the sinner but that he may turn from his evil way and live" And again, "Turn to Me, you children who have gone far from Me, and I will heal your wound". In Your Holy Gospel You promised and said that there is great joy in heaven over one sinner who repents so that all the holy companies rejoice in his salvation. You are He who when the thief sent forth pitifully his cry to You, "Remember me when You come in Your Kingdom", cleansed him of all stain of sin and made him a son of the Heavenly Kingdom and worthy of Paradise. You are He who when the prodigal son lived riotously and was hungry and far from You in his life, O God, aroused in him the thought of repentance and turned him to You and he came to You with words of humility and asking for pardon, saying: "My Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, and I am not worthy to be called your son". Then You fell upon his neck and kissed him who had wallowed and sunk in the filth of sin. And You summoned all the

heavenly companies and said: "Let us rejoice and be glad because this My son who was dead is alive, he was lost and he is found".

Therefore we beg of You, Lord God, have compassion on us and show us Your love, at this time and at all times according to Your kindliness. Lead our lives in that which is pleasing in Your sight, in this world and in the world to come, and we all will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Lord God, holy and ready to pardon, You who grant us
that after completing the measure of the day
we may come to Your holy temple to offer the evening prayer,
we surrender everything to You, body, soul and spirit.

We also ask You to grant us a night of peace
free from vain imaginations and fears,
now and on all the days of our life that we all
with one voice, full of joy and of thanksgiving,
may praise and exalt Your Glorious and Holy Name.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 35 : 1-7	Jacob built an altar, for God had manifested Himself to him there.
Jb 31 : 1-24	Job's bold protestation innocence
35-40	before God, Shaddai.
IP 2 : 11-17	Live as free men... but servants of God.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive... p.8

Mk 9:30-34 Jesus speaks of His Passion.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Third Saturday of the Great Fast[2]
The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp
Doxology Glory be to the Father...(page 1)
Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord our God, to celebrate the memory of Your saints, the Forty Noble Martyrs, in Your presence, with earnest, prayers, true faith and pure love, and by their prayers for Your graciousness may we be delivered from all destructive evil of soul and body. And grant us that with them we may offer praise and thanksgiving to You, our Lord and our God for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 44 (43) O God, we have heard with our own ears...

RESPONSE

It is because of You, Lord, that we are slain,
that we are led as sheep for the slaughter.
Arise, Lord! Why do You sleep? Awake! Do not be angry for ever!
Do not forget our affliction and suffering.
Arise and help us, and redeem us in Your graciousness.

In all these we have victory through Him who loved us.
Nothing can separate us from His love, neither death nor life,
neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers,
nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us
from the love of God which is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

Come, be diligent, children of the Church,
come and worship the Lord on this Feastday
of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste.
You are blessed for ever, Lord, God of our fathers.

Forty devotees together descended in the arena,
they stripped their bodies naked to cast them off
and to be clothed with the Holy Spirit.
You are blessed for ever, Lord, God of our fathers.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Lord who humbled Himself unto death to give strength to His athletes against all the torments of their persecutors, and who by His fast of forty days gave victory to the Forty Martyrs, while they made light of the cold and frost of the lake by night and by day. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

While we celebrate your beloved memory, O Forty Holy Martyrs... with the Watchers on high we cry out in gladness, O company of beloved brothers how fair you are! And who is able to tell the story of your spiritual combat? Who when you joined battle with the cunning and rebellious demon and his powers put his pride to shame. Forty trees, you grew up in the garden of Christ, the Lord of Paradise, by the lake of Sebaste. Forty eagles, you flew across the world and sowed peace in the creation... Forty true believers born again of water and the Spirit, you were nourished by the bread of life and the cup of immortality. Forty faithful servants, you kept the command of Your Lord and received from Him great glory and an open face before Him. Forty sacrifices were offered to the Ruler of Heaven and Earth and, mixed with the good odour of Your Saviour's sacrifice, they ascended to God Most High. Of you it was that David the prophet sang, "They were taken through fire and water and

then led into freedom". All this you did and accomplished with joy, and with the Divine Psalmist you cried out, "All these things befell us and we did not forget Your Holy Name". The Winged Creatures wondered at your fortitude and the Fiery Ones marvelled at your constancy. And now your memory is glorious in heaven, and your names are remembered in the Holy Church.

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our God, on the day of their remembrance, strengthen the faith of Your Churches in all trials. Grant us fortitude and constancy, that like them we may overcome the Evil One and his powers. May we be joined to their ranks and placed in their company, and be gladdened by their crowning, and helped and blessed by their prayers, and like them cast off the world. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Forty soldiers of the emperor had become soldiers of Christ.
Asked to offer sacrifice they pledged allegiance to their Lord.
It was a cruel winter and they were all condemned
to lie naked on the ice of a lake and be frozen to death.

They ran undismayed to the place of their combat
and joyfully stripped off their garments
and with one voice prayed God to keep their ranks unbroken,
"Forty we have come to combat, grant, Lord, that forty be crowned".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

A warm bath was ready near by, for those who would deny Christ.
One of the confessors lost heart and crawled to the fire,
but died, body and soul, at the spot where he expected relief.
However a guard who had watched them was inspired to confess Christ.
He took his place and again the number of forty was complete.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is the Slain who by His death comforts His followers.
Unmoved by tortures, in His Name, they made light of death.
Frozen to death the forty martyrs remained unconquered,
the freezing ice becoming fuel for fire. Blessed is the Mighty One
who strengthened them and gave them victory in the combat.

In Your bounty and Your love, Lord, make memory of the dead
who have eaten Your body and who drank Your blood,
and who now rest and sleep in the hope of Your Name.
When You shall come to judge the peoples and the tribes,
raise them up, Lord, at Your right side.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

The forty athletes breathed the pure incense and the sweet fragrance
which rose from Golgotha and they were invigorated.
And because of the fragrance of this good odour,
they made light of the ice of the lake
and they endured the cold of the frost.
They were offered as a chosen incense
consumed by the fire of love.

Receive, Lord, this incense which we burn in their memory,
and let our service, on their feast, be pleasing to You.
Make us worthy of the lot which has fallen to them,
that with them and among them we may offer praise and thanksgiving,
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayers be with us, O Forty Martyrs,
may your prayers always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

By your prayers, O Holy Martyrs,
may the Lord strengthen us to follow Him fearlessly,
and like you to find Him by witnessing to His love.

The martyrs looked at each other courageously and cried out,
"Today is the Feast, Christ calls us to His side".
And as each one marked his eyes with the sign of the Cross, the Evil One
who was approaching them was put to flight by this gesture.

Blessed Martyrs, you were not fighting against human foes
but against the cosmic powers, wicked rulers of this dark world.
You were an incense sacrifice ascending from the lake to the Lord
and its fragrance was wafted through the whole creation.

Glory to the Father who made the martyrs like pillars.
Adoration to the Son who descended and stood among them.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who adorned them with crowns of glory.
And on us graciousness, by their prayers, at all times.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
You made them pass through fire and water
and You led them to freedom.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He who acknowledges Me before men, says the Lord,
the Son of Man will acknowledge him before the angels of God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 12:4-12 The Holy Spirit helps us in the confession of Christ.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with earnestness and cheerfulness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world".

Christ our God who when You extended Your holy hands on the Cross drew the whole creation to Yourself, the glorious martyrs saw You and longed to follow You in Your death, enkindle now in our hearts the same ardour of love, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who made the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste drunk with Your love, and thus they endured the icy cold and offered their bodies into the fire, putting to shame the Evil One and their persecutors, strengthen us against the forces of Evil at work in this dark age, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Lord, that we may keep Your life-giving commandments with true faith, and offer a new praise to You on the Feast of the Glorious Forty Martyrs, and on all the days of our life, we beseech You and we will cry three times,

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep... p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve... p.9

RESPONSE

With the powers on high we bless You, O Lover of Humankind.
We offer our adorations to You and we praise You.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

With the Winged Creatures we bless You.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, O Lover of Humankind.
And with the angels we praise You and adore You.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

Holy Martyrs of Sebaste, pride of the Churches of Asia,
pray and make supplication to Him
for whom you endured sufferings and death
that by your prayers He may show His graciousness to all.

With the martyrs who loved You,
and suffered and died for Your love, O Lover of Humankind,
make us worthy to enter the heavenly resting place with them.
And by their prayers, be gracious to all.

It is good to offer praise and glory, adoration and highest honour,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him all praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 16 (15)Keep me, O God, for it is in You that I trust...

RESPONSE

We bless You, Lord, who guide us and even at night instruct our hearts.
You will show us and we shall know the path of life.
There is fulness of joy in Your presence.
At Your right hand is happiness for ever.

Glory to Your right hand, our Lord,
which strengthens the martyrs in their contests
and weaves crowns for them and makes them models and helpers,
and the glory of the people of the Church of believers.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him with whose love the hearts of the noble martyrs were on fire, and they made light of a cruel death for the love of Him who Himself trod the way to martyrdom. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

With joy and exultation the Holy Churches keep memory of the Forty Holy Martyrs who were led to a lingering end of their life on the icy surface of the Lake of Sebaste and thus frozen to death before their naked bodies were thrown into the flames. It was of you, O Holy Martyrs, that the prophet David sang when he said: "They passed through fire and water but were brought out into liberty". And all this you accomplished with joy, crying with the Psalmist, "These things befell us, as we were invoking His Holy Name". The heavenly beings themselves were filled with wonder at your fortitude and marvelled at your constancy.

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our Lord, that by their prayers You will make us to follow them in true faith and fervour of love, so that we may not be deprived of our heavenly calling. But by our life and by our death, may Your love be revealed, and that of Your Father and that of Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

With faith and boldness the confessors descended on the lake
to wage a final battle against the Evil One.
As they were stripped naked they laid bare his deceit.
Blessed is He who magnifies their memory in the creation.

Forty confessors entered the contest and forty were crowned.
When a defector crawled to the warm bath he found death.
But a soldier seeing an angel bringing forty crowns for the martyr.
Confessed Christ, restoring their number, and forty were crowned.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are You, the Strong, by whom the martyrs were victorious
when they entered the contest with the evil powers.
They endured afflictions and death but did not succumb.
From their bones flows healing for the children of men.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O Holy Martyrs,
the day is coming when the Lord will wake us up.
He will rejoice us when He comes with great glory,
and the saints will go forth to meet Him.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 33 (32) Praise the Lord, you just...

RESPONSE

The eyes of the Lord are on those who revere Him,
on those who trust in His love,
to rescue their souls from death
and to keep them alive in time of distress.

Holy Martyrs, lovers of Christ, instead of the evil of this world
take our petitions to the Lord whom you love so much
that we may be granted pardon of all our offences
and with you enter the abode of bliss.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him by whose strength the martyrs waged battle and conquered their persecutors, by the wine of whose love His followers were made drunk and endured all sufferings with joy. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God who were crucified on the heights of Golgotha for our salvation, when the Forty Holy Martyrs whose memory we commemorate today heard Your name, they longed for Your beauty and desired to see it. And they went from this world, stripped of everything but filled with wonder at Your Passion and Crucifixion, and with marvel at Your Resurrection. How they turned their affliction into joy and how pain became for them a source of delight on account of their love for You! How death itself became desirable as it opened up into life eternal! How wonderful are Your works and how unsearchable Your decrees!

Therefore, Lord, we beseech You, give us the right understanding of Your ways with us. Like the band of Forty Holy Martyrs, may this assembly be bound to You by an unbreakable bond of love. Like them may we be inflamed with Your love, so that, by their prayers, like them also, we may make little of this world. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

How lovely and beautiful are your bones,
blessed martyrs who loved Christ so much.
They are like the flowers of a garland of praise.
Whosoever comes to them with faith obtains help.

The martyrs said to Christ: "For You, our Lord, we are dying.
Do not abandon us, and when You come with Your angels,
in Your love, acknowledge us as we acknowledge You.
And make us rejoice at Your right hand in Your Kingdom".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On the Feast of the Blessed Martyrs the Church rejoices.
She sings praise to the Son of the Good,
who made them triumph in their contest
and now gives them as patrons to her and to her people.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Praise to Him who descended with You in the contest
to help you and make you triumph, O Holy Ones.
Ask Him to be gracious to the whole world
because He will hear you who loved Him so much.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed... p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia... p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens... p.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayers be with us, O Forty Martyrs,
may your prayers always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

By your prayers, O Holy Martyrs,
may the Lord strengthen us to follow Him fearlessly,
and like you to find Him by witnessing to His love.

Grant us, O Lord, to weave beautiful garlands
for the Forty Martyrs who loved You so much.
In their death they bore the likeness of Your death,
to rise in their bodies in the likeness of Your resurrection.

They hastened to the contest with a great desire
and received death as if they were led to the gate of life.
They gave up everything for the love of You
and took up their cross to follow You, Your friends.

This is the love greater than which there is no other,
that man offers himself to death with joy for his friend.
Not in loving life and pleasures and his own delights,
but in discernment, does he who loves prove his love.

Glory to the Father who made the martyrs like pillars.
Adoration to the Son who descended and stood among them.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who adorns them with crowns of glory-
And on us graciousness by their prayers, at all times.

By your prayers, O Glorious Martyrs,
may the Lord prompt us to seek Him fearlessly,
and like you to find Him by witnessing to His love.

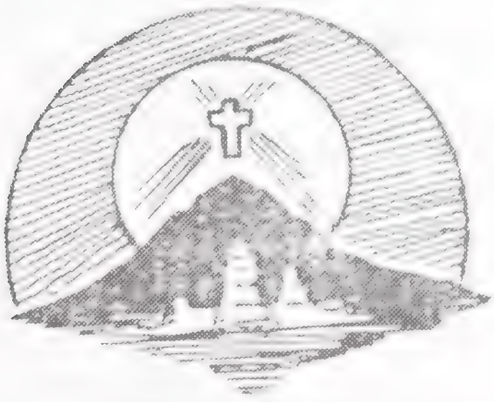
Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

With this we have completed,
with the help of our Lord,
the Services of the Third Saturday,
that is First Half of the Great Fast-
To Him be glory.



Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...(page 1)

Opening Prayer

Lord God, enlighten the eyes of our minds which are blinded by the darkness of this world after our fall into sin. Make the deifying light of Your commandments rise and shine upon us, that with the whole creation we may reflect the light of Your Son Jesus Christ, and come to the heights of Your Heavenly Kingdom. And we will praise You and adore You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, my soul...

RESPONSE
Lord, all creatures look to You for their food...
When you open Your hand they are filled with good things.
Should You take away Your Spirit we would turn to dust again.
In You, O Lord, we live and move and have our being.

You breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life
and thus he became a living creature.
The spirit of all flesh is Your gift, O God.
Send forth Your Holy Spirit that we may be renewed.

Psalm 143 Blessed be the Lord who trains my hands...

RESPONSE

Lord, what is man that You care for him?
Mortal man that You should think of him?
Man whose life is a mere breath
and his days like passing shadows?

In the midst of the crowd the Canaanite woman cried in her grief:
"Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me, and heal my daughter!"
"O Woman, great is your faith, your desire is fulfilled,"
said Jesus. Her daughter was healed and both cried together:
"You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our fathers."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

The Word, the Beloved Son of the Father, decended on earth for us.
By His divine power He healed our diseases and our wounds.
In His graciousness He pardons our sins, and in His compassion
He makes us return to our first dwelling.

In His love the Son of the Good humbled Himself.
He trod our earth to save His image from deceit and evil.
In His compassion He journeyed to a foreign country,
the region of Tyre and Sidon, the land of the Canaanite people.

The Canaanite woman heard that the Good Physician had come.
She went out to meet Him, in tears, lamenting and groaning,
and she began to cry: "Lord, be gracious to me!
In Your compassion have pity on me!"

"Good One and Son of the Good, be compassionate to Your servant.
My daughter is violently tormented by an evil spirit.
Lord, You who drive out evil spirits,
command it to depart and my affliction will cease."

"Merciful and Gentle Physician who do not disregard the sick,
visit Your maid-servant who is afflicted by a rebellious spirit."
The Lord replied to her: "Go, your request is granted".
And her daughter was cured.

Christ our King, make to rest in the harbour of life
and the dwelling of joy Your servants who rest in Your hope.
And when You come in glory to give their reward to Your labourers
may they take their pleasure with You.

Praise to the Father who sent His Only Son to heal our diseases.
Adoration to the Son who drove away the powers ruling over us.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who delivers us from Satan's slavery
and who makes us children of God.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Holy One, the Sea of Compassion, who had mercy on the human race and saved it, the Fountain of Goodness who by His love for us redeemed the earthly human nature and made it to share in the divine nature. To Him we offer praise and thanksgiving, at this time of evening...

Praise... to You, the Only One and Uniquely Beloved Son, Word and Wisdom of the Father. We worship, we thank, we beseech and implore Your Eternal Goodness which perfects all things. At the evening time You descended to the lower depths and dwelt among us for our salvation. You dwelt in the womb of the Holy Virgin without being confined by it. And without changing You became incarnate, uniting yourself through her with the flesh. You mixed with men, but as God and Lord of all You accomplished many miracles and saved the world from the abyss of sin. When You were invited to a marriage festival You changed the water into good wine. By Your grace You blessed marriage that new children might be born by a spiritual birth. You healed the sick and calmed those who were tormented by evil spirits. When the sea had risen, violently tossing the boat of Your holy disciples, You awoke from Your calm sleep and You rebuked it by Your sovereign word. In a desert place You satisfied the hungry with a little bread while much remained over. And the last of these many and great wonders was that You offered Yourself to death. They stretched You on

the wood while men fastened You with nails. You died and descended to the dwelling of the dead. An You rose to life on the third day.

And now we beseech Your Compassion, show again your graciousness. Raise us from the fall of sin. Loose our bonds. Heal our wounds. Wash our impurities. Grant us health of soul, body and spirit. Christ the God of all and Lord of glory, to You we offer praise, honour and adoration, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus was journeying through the borderland of Tyre and Sidon,
when a Canaanite woman came out to meet Him, beseeching,
"Lord, have pity on me, my daughter is tormented by an evil spirit.
O Physician who have come to visit Your people which was lost,
heal my daughter! Be like David, Your father,
who by the sound of the harp put to flight the Evil One."

On the way the Canaanite woman saw the Ocean of Relief.
With tears and supplications she approached Him and begged Him:
"Firstborn of the Father, deliver the image of Your Majesty,
my daughter, from the clutches of the wicked oppressor,
that she may have an inheritance with You
and that she may become the dwelling place of Your glory,
You who came to save the image which your hands had fashioned."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to the Son of God who visits the work of his hands.
He humbles His Majesty and becomes man.
In the desert He feeds thousands of people.
He changes the water into wine.
He cleanses the lepers and heals the paralyzed.
The deaf and dumb hear and speak and He opens the eyes of the blind.
With His word He raises the dead and forgives the sins of sinners.
Blessed is the Good Physician who has come to make the world whole.

From age to age for ever. Amen.

That Ocean of Graciousness and Relief for humankind
sees behind Him the Canaanite woman who was entreating Him.
His mouth is filled with healing and health of every kind.
But he tests her faith: "Let us first feed the children.
It is not right to take their food and throw it to the dogs."
"Let the dogs eat at least the crumbs that fall from the table!"
"How wonderful your faith", answered Jesus,
"Your daughter is cured".

Remember, Lord, our dead.
Grant rest to those who were clothed with You in baptism
and who received You at the altar, who ate Your holy body
and drank Your blood, the cup of salvation.
May they rejoice with Abraham in the Kingdom.
And at Your right hand may they sing to You:
"Praise to You, Lord, halleluia. Grant rest, Lord, to Your servants".

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Thanks to You, Good Physician,
who from Your Father brought the medicine of life
and came to heal our diseases by this means.
You loosed the tongues that were stammering.
You enlightened the minds that were darkened.
And in Your love You visited us who were sick.

You who are the odour of sweetness, keep us and perfect us
in the knowledge of Your Saving Economy in the flesh
and in all the paths of virtue,
that we may offer pure praise and thanksgiving
to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Christ who came and walked on earth according to Your Economy,
You healed the sick, cleansed the lepers and raised the dead.

The Son of God, in His mercy, having descended upon the earth
to save His image from the deceit of evil spirits,
in His providence passes by the borders of Tyre and Sidon,
and a Canaanite woman overcome by great sorrow follows Him.

"Lord, Lover of Humankind, be gracious to Your servant.
Behold, my daughter is grievously tormented.
You who have power over spirits, say a word and she will be delivered.
And I, freed from my anxiety, will sing your praise."

"Merciful Physician who do not turn away from the sick,
visit Your servant whom Satan oppresses." The Lord said :
"Go, your desire is fulfilled." Blessed is He
who by His word delivers His servants from rebellious spirits.

It is right, Lord, that we offer You glorious praise.
By You the darkness of error and evil is dispelled.
Everything on earth gives thanks to You, Lord, at all times,
and to Your Father who sent You and to Your Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Because the Lord hears the poor,
He does not let down the oppressed.
He delivers them from the Evil One and his powers.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He drives out evil spirits
after kindling the faith of the believer.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 7:24-30 Jesus heals the Canaanite woman's daughter.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who converse unceasingly with Your people when the living voice of the Gospel resounds in the Churches, move them constantly towards the fulness of Your truth, until Your words reach their fulfilment in them, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, who tested the Canaanite woman, and when You heard her speak of herself as ready to receive the scraps falling from Your table were moved by her humility, strengthen the faith of Your Churches and fill our hearts with all humility and truth, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, who when Your time approached set Your face resolutely towards Jerusalem without turning away from suffering, strengthen us in carrying our cross with You, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace of the Churches and the serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, grant us by a renewed faith in You and the testimony of good works to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Holy Passover of Your Blessed Passion, Death and Resurrection, that we may be found worthy of the wedding feast which does not come to an end, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The angels who keep vigil never cease to praise You.
Awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The Son of God full of love walked as a man on earth.
As He was on a journey He took rest in the house of Simon.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Simon's mother-in-law was sick, in the grip of a high fever.
The Loving Physician went to her and cured her of her disease.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One

When our Saviour was in the region of Tyre and Sidon,
a Canaanite woman made supplication to Him to heal her daughter.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Seeing her faith Jesus said: "Be it as you wish."
And at that very moment her daughter was cured.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The Church, Your Bride, which You redeemed, asks earnestly:
"Receive, O Good One, in Your mercy our prayer and our fast."
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 119 (118) : 97-112 Lord, how I love Your law...

RESPONSE

Beloved, let us praise together Christ the Son of God
who put on our body to save us,
and made us sons, in His goodness.
Praise to Him and to His Hidden and Invisible Father.
Come, let us adore Him who in His graciousness saved us from deceit.

Jesus the Son of the King fasted for our sake.
He came to defeat the Evil One and to overthrow his power.
As He saw us in dishonour, He made himself weak,
bringing His strength to nothing to give us His life-giving body
and to mix His blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord.. Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His love and care for humankind...

As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p.35

Hymn

Our Saviour journeyed through the country,
to relieve the pains and sufferings of the poor race of Adam,
He who descended to save and deliver from perdition
the image which is hands had fashioned.

Ten lepers entreated Him for a cure and good health.
In His love He answered: "Let it be to you as you wish."
They were healed from their disease
and all sang the praise of Him who healed them.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Our Saviour came to give help to the creation.
By a word He cured a leper who asked Him to be cleansed.
He restored the paralytic to good health,
and healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to Christ who humbled Himself to work wonders for us.
With five loaves and two fishes He fed thousands of people.
He made the lame walk, the dumb speak and the blind to see.
Praise to Him who pardons sinners and gives life to the dead.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 119 (118) : 113-128 I have no love for men of divided heart...

RESPONSE

The Son of the Most High descended on earth
to raise man to heaven.
He was with us and like us
and in His compassion He healed our diseases.

With only five loaves of bread
five thousand people ate their fill.
All ate and were fed
and there remained twelve baskets of bread.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Heavenly Physician who in His goodness visited...

As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p.37

Hymn

For thirty eight years the paralyzed man lay beside the pool
waiting to be cured, without receiving anything.
At last the Lord of the Sabbath came and said to him:
"Your sins are forgiven, rise and thank God who has cured you."

You are the Good One who manifested Your power
toward three people who had been carried away by death:
the daughter of Jairus at home, the widow's son on the way,
and Lazarus from the tomb, four days after his burial.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord was moved to compassion, seeing the paralyzed man
who had been bound to his bed for a long time by his disease.
He said to him: "Your sins are forgiven, get up and go home."
And the man went off joyfully, praising the Good Physician.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Beloved Son of God came down and became man in His love.
He gave health to the sick and healing to the afflicted.
The children of Adam beheld in Him the glory of God,
and by believing, they received the glory of God's children.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p...11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came and walked on earth according to Your Economy,
You healed the sick, cleansed the lepers and raised the dead.

Prompt us, Lord, to the praise of Your Godhead
that we may sing the wonders of Your Divinity.
May Your love drive away from us all sloth and negligence,
that we may be alert and praise You with love.

In the silence of the night, O Good One, we offer praise
on account of Your decrees and Your works for us.
We who are negligent and prone to evil,
pray You that Your love may make us stand to praise You
and to bring forth fruits of true repentance.

Evening passes and is followed by the watches of the night,
enlighten us, You who are the day for those who love You.
The darkness of the night surrounds us on all sides,
Lord, You are the light, make us see Your light.

May the little ones praise You in the calm of the night.
May they chant to You a new praise at night.
May they sing Your praise in silence and quiet
and praise You at the appearance of the morning. To You all praise.

Christ who descended to heal the afflicted and make them whole.

Heal our diseases, bind up our wounds and be gracious to all.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p...26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy on our faces.p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fourth Monday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Monday, p. 41 except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, and given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Just One who bears with our iniquities and deals gently with us, the Wise Physician who descended to bind up our wounds and to heal freely our scars and sores. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord Jesus Christ who are the propitiation of our faults, cleanse us from all shameful passions and dispel the cloud of darkness which often sets upon our hearts... Incline towards us the unfailing mercy and

compassion of Your graciousness that we may be healed by Your goodness... Our wounds are many and there is no ground for confidence by which we may approach You. We are become like the morning cloud and like the dew at dawn, and like the dust which is winnowed by the wind on the threshing floor. Consolation is hidden from our eyes. Turn therefore to us, Lord. Do not spurn a contrite heart and a humble spirit. Let our repentance be received before You, and speak things of peace to the heart of Your people, for You are He who when we were not, brought us into being, and when we were corrupted by sin unto death, again You called us by Your Divine Economy, and made Yourself propitiation for us. To You we offer praise on account of Your great love for us, and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Lord who are rich in gifts and abounding in love,
receive this fragrant incense which we present before You,
and let Your compassion be poured out upon us.

Remove from us the threats of Your justice
and let Your goodness and graciousness come upon us,
so that we may thank You and adore You and praise You
and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations Halleluia, halleluia... The word of God is alive...p.8

Jn 5: 1-18 The healing at the pool of Bethesda.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fourth Tuesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the First Tuesday, p 55, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the word of God all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the King of kings and Lord of angels, whose purpose is attained, whose treasure is large and whose door is open. To You we cry, Gracious Father, hear us in Your compassion and help us according to Your promise, at this time of evening...

Lord God who are pure and holy and the Pardoner of all our offences, and who call sinners to repentance, do not with hold Your graciousness from Your devotees... We make supplication to You, Lord our God, who were the expectation of the fathers and patriarchs of old, that You bestow on all sinners who knock at the door of Your mercy the pardon of offences, for You are loving and full of compassion. If You should count our sins and faults, and bring all that is hidden into the open, where, Lord, and in which place should we hide from Your presence? Do not treat us as our faults deserve, we who long for Your salvation and take refuge in Your graciousness. With bent head and a contrite heart, we beg and beseech You that You will stretch Your right hand over us and deliver us from all sinful thoughts and judgements. Receive from us this humble repentance which we present before You. Be reconciled by the prayers and supplications of Your worshippers. Make us sons of the inheritance of Your saints, those You made worthy of the blessings of eternal life and of all the good things which come from You. Join us with all those who from the beginning have been pleasing to the will of Your Godhead, by the

goodness and graciousness and the love of humankind of Your Only Son with whom to You and Your Holy Spirit, belongs glory, honour and adoration, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Fragrant Incense and Delightful Scent,
Your gifts cleanse the stains of humankind
and make the whole creation fragrant
with the good odour of Your love.

Receive this fragrant incense which we present before You
for the pardon of all the children of the Holy Church
and we will confess You in truth and praise You with understanding,
You, our Lord, and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn	37 : 29-35	Jacob's sorrow at the loss of Joseph.
Pr	4 : 1-19	Invitation to seek wisdom... the two ways of life.
1 P	3 : 1-9	The true beauty of woman : the hidden person and her heart... Humility and unity required for the community.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The word of God is alive...p.8

Mk 12 : 41-44 The widow's offering from the little she had...

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Fourth Wednesday of the Great Fast

The Middle of the Fast and Commemoration
of the Exaltation of the Cross
and of the faith of King Abgar
and Saint Habib, Martyr of Edessa.

This Day is celebrated as a Feast.

Let the Golgotha or stand be set up in the middle of the Church and the Cross, clothed in a red stole, be fixed on it, in the fashion of the brazen serpent, as the Lord ordered Moses to set the brazen serpent on a pole in the middle of the camp. And all those who were bitten by the fiery serpents and looked on it would not die. In the same manner, said our Lord, the Son of man will be lifted up on the Wood, like moses raised the serpent in the desert. (Nb 21 : 4-9, Jn 3 : 13)

Evening Prayer

When the Cross has been erected and clothed in the red stole by the presiding priest it is incensed, while the congregation sings the Verses and the Hymn of the Cross.

Doxology Glory be to the Father....(page 1)

Opening Prayer

Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast for Your sake in purity and pray before You in holiness. Make that peace and tranquillity dwell in them, which is dear to You. Shed Your blessings on Your people and on all nations. Help all men to seek You and find You, that they may serve You with all their heart, all their soul and all their strength, in this Holy Season and in all seasons. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 144 I will exalt You, my God, O King...

RESPONSE
Great is our Lord and worthy of praise.
Generation to generation proclaims Your works.
They recount the story of Your mighty deeds
and tell of Your splendour and glory.

God loved us with so much love
that when we were dead through our sins,
He brought us to life in Christ.
How great His goodness in His Son Jesus!

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE
As we call to You, Lord,
hear the sound of our supplication
and be gracious to all.

We entreat You, Lord,
turn Your ear to our prayers,
and be gracious to all

We make supplication to You, Lord,
forgive our offences
and be gracious to all.

We praise Your Name, Lord,
for You are our help,
be gracious to all.

Show us Your ways, Lord,
make Your paths known to Your people
and be gracious to all.

Your word is a lamp to guide us, Lord.
Direct our steps on Your paths
and be gracious to all.

We offer thanksgiving, adoration and praise,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, at all times.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Great Saviour who out of love bore in Himself fast, hunger and temptation in the flesh for our salvation, and by His holy fast delivered us from the malediction incurred for the transgression of the commandment concerning the tree, and by His life-giving Cross, sceptre of power, armour of strength, staff of salvation, made peace for us. To Him who wrought our salvation in the middle of the earth, let us offer praise, adoration and thanksgiving in the middle of the Holy Church, in the middle of the divine fast, and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit, at this time of evening...

Lord, our God, and God of those on high and those below, who by the mediation of your Uniquely Beloved Son created all creatures in heaven and on earth, rational and irrational, visible and spiritual, when in Your ineffable love for humankind You willed to raise up a middle nature consisting of a spiritual soul and a material body, in the middle of the earth You moulded with Your holy hands the first man, and placed him in the middle of the paradise of blessedness, and gave him a clear commandment to have authority over it, that of all the trees he should eat, but of that in the middle he should not eat, because it stood between death and life. But he was led astray by her who was herself deceived by the serpent, and the fall of those whom Your Son had made in Your living image was grievous.

Later You sent Moses for the salvation of Your people from Egypt, and with his hands You did wondrous miracles. You signified the Mystery of the Cross of Your Beloved Son there in the middle of the desert by the mystery of the water from the rock which he caused to

spring up, and by the staff which made the bitter water sweet. When the people were bitten by the deadly serpents, You heard the voice and the cry of the mediator and You ordered him to make a serpent of bronze, set up in the middle of the camp, and all who looked on it were delivered from their affliction. So also You ordered the earthly tabernacle which signified the Holy Church to be set up in the middle of the camp, that in it there might be performed mysteries which were like shadows of the realities mystically made present in the Church.

So at all times You raised up as mediators, prophets and sages, priests and kings, that they might signify the Mystery of Salvation by their offerings and their altars, by their prayers and their zeal, by their victories and by their deaths.

And when the wound of those who were afflicted grew worse and they were left in the middle of the way with no one to bind them or heal them, You sent Your Son as the Mediator to visit those who were in distress. He became man of a virgin who thus became the mediatrix of the Mystery of Salvation, to be Himself the Mediator between us and You, and by the body and the blood by which He makes us partake of Himself He bestowed healing on Man the Slanderer.

And now in the middle of the Fast which You performed for us in accordance with the law, Jesus Christ our God who are the fountainhead of our lives, we have come to the Cross of life by which You accomplished our salvation in the middle of the habitable earth, and we set it up in the middle of the Church, as it was prefigured by the brazen serpent. Before it we offer adoration to You who were crucified upon it, and as we contemplate it, our trust in You increases mystically.

Therefore, O God, by the power and with the help of the Holy Fast of our Lord, we beseech You to set us free from all the snares of the Enemy... and mingle in us the wine of the love of Your Son, our Lord and our God, Jesus Christ. And grant us to partake of His body and His blood, that with Him we may glory in His passion and receive life from His death, and through His mediation we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Beloved, we have reached the middle of the Holy Fast.
And as the completion of these blessed days is now in sight
let us not become unmindful of our earnest beginning.
Surely, beloved, we must pray for God's graciousness
and make supplication to obtain true repentance.
Then only, with those who celebrated the Fast earnestly,
shall we take our delight at the marriage feast of light.

Behold, the Great Passion of our Saviour is approaching
and the day of the Holy Passover is drawing near.
Let us therefore put off the old nature and all worldly passions
and put on the bright garments of a good way of life,
that they may make us worthy of partaking
of the Mysteries of the Holy Passover.

Lord, as the end of our life is approaching every day
and the day of retribution is drawing near, we pray
Your Graciousness, blot out the sins we have committed.
We beseech You, when Your coming is revealed to us,
may Your compassion plead on behalf of Your servants
who have acted foolishly and wretchedly.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On the day of the Commemoration
of Your Noble and Glorious Cross, O our Saviour,
we beseech You to make Your peace and calm
reign in the Churches and in the monasteries,
from one end of the earth to the other.
Keep from all harm, the people saved by Your Cross,
that they may never cease to praise You
with the assemblies of those who are clothed with fire.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Your Cross, our Lord, is the key that opens Paradise.
It is the Tree on which we see the Fruit of the Garden
which Adam had closed on account of his foolishness.

It is the way and the bridge to cross the place of terror.
By it we are delivered from the fire promised to the wicked
and we are made to enter into life eternal
the place of joy, the marriage feast of lights.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

In Your goodness, Lord, receive this incense which we offer to You
on this day on which we have reached the middle of Your Fast
and commemorate the Cross by which You wrought salvation
in the middle of the earth, as You broke through the fence
which stood between the heavenly ones and the earthly ones
and reconciled Your Father with His creation.

By it, Lord, give peace to Your Church and her people
who now, in the middle of Your Fast,
worship and glorify it in the midst of Your house.
Deliver her from all attacks against the truth of her faith
that she may remain unshaken
in the face of the waves of unbelief and of all satanic storms,
and offer true praise to You and to Your Father
and to Your Holy Spirit, God, Great Lover of Humankind.

Supplication Son Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Cross deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

O you who are harassed by Satan
look at Christ who was lifted up on the Cross.
Those who look at Him are healed.
If some hidden disease has entered your limbs,
by looking at the Cross of light you can obtain relief.
O you who suffer under the stings of the Evil One,
look at the Cross and be healed by its grace.

You whose heart is filled with iniquity
look at the Cross without doubting
and you will be healed by its grace.
Sins sting you like snake bites,
unless you look at the Cross you cannot be healed.
As Moses lifted up the serpent of bronze in the desert
our Lord, the Son of Man, lifted up, delivers us from evil.

Behold, the Cross is set up in the middle of our church
that all those who suffer may look at it and be healed.
The Cross is a well of compassion for those who are afflicted.
O sinners, behold, it looks at you that you may look at it.
Only the sight of it is a remedy for all diseases.
The Cross is set up, a standard in the middle of the earth,
to be seen by all and to make compassion flow
and refresh all those who look at it.

Glory to the Father who signified the Cross through Moses.
Adoration to the Son who fulfilled his symbol
by suffering on the Cross.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who by it explained all symbols.
One nature, three persons, to Him be glory.

By the graciousness and compassion
which You showed to the thief at Your right side.

Have compassion on us also, Son of God, and be gracious to all.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Nb	20 : 1-11	The revolt of community against Moses.
	21 : 4-9	The bronze serpent that healed the snake bites.
Is	52 : 13-15	My servant... so disfigured
	53 : 1-12	they will be astounded at Him.
Ac	7 : 35-38	Moses mediated before Christ.

Gospel Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Blessed is he whose sin is remitted,
whose transgression is forgiven.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

No one ever ascended into heaven
but He who descended from heaven,
the Son of Man whose home is in heaven.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn	7:14-16	In the temple Jesus began to teach... As the
Jn	3:11-16	Serpent was lifted up by Moses... the Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy... p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God, to stand before... p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve... p.9

RESPONSE
Awaken us and raise us up from the sleep of slothfulness,
Christ our God, that with the companies of the children of light,
we may sing praise to You, O Wakeful one who do not sleep.

Christ our God descended in His graciousness
and by His Holy Fast defeated the Evil One.
Come, all you peoples, let us bow down and adore Him.

Christ our God by fasting taught us to overcome
the sinful passions and to control the desires of the flesh.
Come, all you peoples, let us bow down and adore Him.

Moses ascended Mount Sinai, and while he was fasting
he saw God and received all the commandments.
Come, all you peoples, let us bow down and adore Him.

Lord, our Lord, spare Your people who in great sorrow
offer supplication to You, and make Your goodness dawn on them.
Behold, with groanings they bow down to You and adore You.

Lord of Graciousness, receive our Service
and quickly grant our requests from Your rich treasure-house.
Be gracious to us, in all mercy and goodness.

Glory to the Father,
and thanksgiving to the Son who proceeds from Him,
and to the Holy Spirit our shouts of joy,
the Mystery of the Trinity, One Being, to be adored and praised.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 49 (48) Hear this, all you peoples...

RESPONSE

No man can buy his own ransom
or pay the price for his life to God.
He cannot buy life without end nor avoid coming to the grave.

Glory to You, Lord. The heights and the depths rest on You,
and all that is in them receives sustenance from You.
We beseech You, do not bring us to nougt, Lord of all creatures.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him whose light shines even at night...
As on Wednesday in the First Half, p. 71

Hymn

Let us awake from sleep that we may not be drowned in sin.
He who judges the whole creation is coming.
He gives the Kingdom to those who keep vigil earnestly
but He separates the evil-doers with fire.

May the prayer and supplication of Your servants to Your Lordship
bring reconciliation to them and be well pleasing to You,
like the incense of Aaron and the sacrifice of Abraham
and keep away all evil from Your Beloved Church.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Spare Your Church, our Lord, and be gracious to Your people.
Keep away from them hard times. Hear our supplication
and enkindle Your love in our hearts,
for You are good, You are the Fountain of Goodness.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Let us keep in mind at all times the great and fearful day
when Christ the King will appear from on high.
Beloved, let us be earnest in keeping vigil,
that we may meet Him with an open face.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid.
Hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful ones and the angels,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Repentance is like a physician to the wounded.
Those who do not have it abound in faults.
It is like a great city, a place of refuge in this world.
The penitents fly and find refuge in it with great relief.

Seeds of blessings sprout on account of the drops of tears,
as a good ground and a little water make them germinate.
Shed tears of repentance in the presence of the Lord.
By them the wrong-doer becomes good, if they are shed from the heart.

There is a second baptism for those who wish to be purified.
Shed tears, sinner, for by them your sins are remitted.
When small drops of tears fall on seeds of repentance,
they germinate and produce an abundance of fruits.

Come with tears to the house of God, like the sinful woman,
and like her, surrender Your sins and offences to His graciousness.
Knock at the door, enter and fall on your face like her,
and bedew the holy ground with your tears.

Hear us, O God! Hear us, O God! Be gracious to the whole world.

And make the hearts of the children of men turn to repentance.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 50 (49) : 1-15 The God of gods, the Lord has spoken...

RESPONSE

Let thanksgiving be the sacrifice you offer to God.
Give to the Lord all that you promised.
Call on Him in the day of distress
and He will save you and you will praise Him.

The abyss of my sins terrifies me, my whole being shakes with terror.
I have defiled the world in my youth and in my old age.
Great Lover of Humankind, You who forgave the sinful woman,
forgive my offences as You forgave her.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Sun of Righteousness who justifies sinners...
As on Wednesdays in the First Half, p. 74

Hymn

I partake of Your body and I am saved,
I drink Your blood and I am pardoned.
I take refuge under Your Cross which is the life of all.
Let me not be allotted to the fire that I have to call on You
out of the darkness, O Christ who are full of graciousness.

You Yourself said, "I do not desire the death of the sinner,
but that he should turn to repentance and have life and salvation."
Our Lord, make us return to Your Church,
as You made the Ninevites return to You,
for You are the Lover of Humankind.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord God, we are sinking in the abyss of sin.
We look to all sides to be lifted up
but we are carried away by our passions.
Take hold of us with Your right hand, our Lord.
Make haste, save us quickly lest we be utterly lost.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Abate the fire of Your indignation towards us
on account of our sins, lest it devours us.
Make us pass through this sea of flames,
O Bridegroom who saved us by Your Cross,
that the image of Your Majesty may not be destroyed in the fire.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Lord, receive our service.

And from Your treasure-house
send us compassion, graciousness and forgiveness.

Behold, the Passion of our Lord is approaching
and the Day of the Resurrection is drawing near.
Let us all awake, dearly beloved, awake and be alert
and diligent in the works of perfection.

Let us all see that we have oil in our lamps,
as children of the marriage feast of heaven,
that we may hear the voice of the Bridegroom
and go forth to meet Him with joy.

Beloved, we must repent, remembering the word of Jesus
telling us that the son turned away from his iniquity,
the son that was dead was found alive again,
he was lost and he was now found.

Praise, adoration and exaltation
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
the Three who are One, and He is gracious to His Churches.

Hearer of the prayers of the just and devotees of old,
hear our prayers and be reconciled with us.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p. 11

Common Response

The Uniquely Beloved Son of the Father descended and put on a body.
He became a son of man and saviour.
He saw Adam downcast and broken on account of his fall.
He had pity on him and bound up his wounds.
For his sake He endured all sufferings and tortures,
crucifixion and death and He healed his sores.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Glorious one who is praised by the legions of flame...
As on Wednesday in the First Half, p. 76.

Hymn

When all that is now hidden will be revealed
and every one will receive the wages of his works, grant us,
Lord, in Your compassion, to go and meet You with hosannahs,
and to sing to You joyful praises with the angels,
"Holy, holy, holy are You, Lord"

Our Lord, we are afraid on account of our sins
that they will prevent us from entering the Garden of Joy
that is kept for all the saints
Our Lord, deliver us from the Gehenna of fire,
and make us dwell in the place for which we are longing.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Who will not rejoice in Your Cross, Lord, who suffered for us.
Who will not take refuge in it, the high wall for those who worship it
We adore You, our Saviour, who gave it to us an armour
to overcome sin. We will not glory in anything except in Your Cross.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Behold, we knock at Your door, O Gracious Physician,
we who are sick and afflicted, bind our wounds and heal our diseases
and do not requite us according to our iniquities,
You, God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger,
rich in graciousness and faithfulness. To You all praise.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
You who have compassion on sinners,
have compassion on us on the day of Your judgement.

And forgive us our offences
in the abundance of Your goodness.

Christ who give us life, purify our minds
and turn our thoughts to the meditation of Your word.

Christ our refuge, our hope and our trust,
heal our sickness and forgive us our offences.

Our Lord, give peace to our rulers, strengthen our priests
and keep all the children of the Holy Church at Your right hand.

To You be glory, Christ, who are the true light.
Enlighten our minds, in the abundance of Your goodness.

Lord of those above and hope of those below,
receive our Service and be gracious to all.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia... Be compassionate towards us...p. 13. *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens... p.16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Cross deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity,
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Passover is approaching and the time of the joyful feasts of the Son.
Let all wise people rise and set to good works.
Let them keep the mind free from all negligence
and take care that their hearts be enlightened by the Cross of light
for the soul however darkened by evil desires shines forth by it,
as life flows from the Cross to those who look at it.

By the sting of the Serpent death entered the house of Adam
but by the Cross, life is restored to all human beings.
By the Cross we beseech You, O Lover of Humankind,
deliver us from the destruction of the Enemy.
Protect us all under its wings that when You come
we may enter with You the bridal chamber of light and sing Your praise.

The Church whom You betrothed beseeches You by the Cross, Lord,
and asks from You for all her children compassion and graciousness.
By Your Cross bless the Crown of the Year, and in your kindliness,
multiply and make to abound on earth all kinds of fruits.
By Your Cross, Lord, deliver Your Church from all harm
and make us and all sinners turn to repentance.
By Your Cross, Lord, may the light of faith dawn upon all peoples
that they may come and enter Your Church and become her children.

Glory to the Father who strengthens us in the whole course of the Fast.
Adoration to the Son who made us reach the middle of the Fast.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who leads us to the days of the Passover.
Blessed are the Three who rejoice the creation by the Resurrection.
To the One who is Three, all praise.

With the graciousness which You showed to the thief
at Your right hand, have compassion on us also, O Son of God,
and be gracious to all.

Intercessions and Prayer

As in the Second Half of the Fast, p.24

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fourth Thursday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father... (page 1)

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches, that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms and Responses *From the Common Evening Prayer,* p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...	Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the King of kings whose riches are offered to us, whose door is open and whose good will is always inclined towards us. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

We offer this fragrant incense to You, Lord, by whose inscrutable gesture it was created, and to the Father who begot You and to Your Living Holy Spirit, for the sake of the pardon of offences and the forgiveness of sins. You who are the Lover of Humankind, deliver us from the mire of dissolute thoughts and keep away from our souls all passions of sin. Drive away from us altogether the disorderly behaviour of the lower nature: envy and jealousy, anger and bitter feelings, murmuring and any kind of bad mood. Keep us free from vain glory or domination over our brothers and sisters, free from enmity towards You and towards any person and from the allurements of sensuality in the mind or in the body. Help us to control our thoughts and vain imaginations as well as our tongue and our belly, and by the visitation of Your Life-giving Holy Spirit, establish in our hearts love

for You and for all people, humility and obedience, patience and confidence. Give us holiness of body, soul and spirit, truth in speech and true faith, singleness of intention, truth of under-standing, reverence for God, modesty and a good will in all things, fair speech, good behaviour, an honourable life, a modest look, a pure heart, a humble and loving greeting, a kind respect and love for the poor, hospitality to strangers, visiting the sick and those who lie in danger, a good conversation, earnest devotion and constancy towards You, that in all things and at all times we may praise You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit now and always and forever . Amen.

Hymn

Whatever is now covered will be revealed
and every secret will be disclosed, says the Lord.
Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot touch the soul,
rather revere God in whose hands are your body and your soul.

Hear the voice of those who turn to You with repentance Lord.
Hear our cry, and incline Your ear to the voice of our petitions.
Receive our fast and our prayer and be gracious to all.
and in Your goodness receive our requests.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Will it be a gain for us if we win the whole world
but lose our life? In Your love, Lord, grant us
to make little of this world, and to hear Your word and to keep it,
that we may inherit life eternal.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord, we confess that we have sinned, receive our repentance,
that we may offer thanks at all times to You,
and with You to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.
It is through Your goodness that we are saved
and that we become a temple for Your Godhead to dwell in us.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord God, You created the whole world,
and You enlightened it with Your divine knowledge.
You also gladdened the Holy Church with flowers of sweet scent
which she gathered in Your Gospel of life.

Be pleased with the fragrance of this incense,
the offering of Your devotees,
and make our bodies temples for Your dwelling,
our souls abodes of Your habitation,
our mouths harps for Your praise,
our minds seers of Your salvation,
our meditation and prayer a sweet scent for Your compassion,
that we may thank You and praise You at all times.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Cross deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of Light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of Light.

By the serpent of Moses is prefigured the body of Christ
healing the bodies of all those who are afflicted.
He who created all things became like us, except for sin.
He heals us with His own body, and without it we are truly helpless.

As there was no snake poison in the bronze serpent in the desert,
there is no sin in the body of the Son who became one like us.
As the serpent of Moses removed the poison of the snake bites,
so does the Son of God take away the sting of sin.

The body of our Saviour was never subjected to sin.
On account of this all sinners are healed by Him.
How closely the bronze serpent resembles Him!
Yet the body of the Lord is not like that of the serpent.
It does not sting; it has no poison.
It heals through its passion and its sufferings.

Boundless is Your compassion.
And how great the Fast You offered for us!
By it we obtain the victory and we grow in the Spirit.
Bring it to completion as You began it in Your goodness,
that we may witness to You, our Lord,
and to the Father who sent You, and to the Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 39 : 1-20 Joseph and Potiphar's wife.
Pr 5 : 1-14 Warning against immorality.
1 P 3 : 10-22 Suffering for doing good.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia,... Show us Your ways, Lord...p.8

Lk 10:17-24 I thank You Father for revealing these things to the little ones.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God, to stand before...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.10

RESPONSE

Awake sinners while there is time for conversion.
With tears of compunction and sighs of repentance
let us purify our hearts by cleansing away our sins.

On the day when the doors of Your bridal chamber are opened,
O Christ the King, in Your graciousness,
give us the garments of the marriage feast, Lord of all.

We are seized with fear and trembling at the hidden faults
which we have committed, O God, Lover of Humankind.
In Your graciousness have compassion on us, Lord of all.

How dreadful it is for man to fall in the hands of the Lord of all.
May Your Passover be for the pardon of sins, O Lover of Humankind,
and resurrection at Your right hand and confidence in Your sight.

Jesus God, to You we cry, hear our supplication,
do not requite us according to our faults,
You who are compassionate and full of graciousness.

Our lives have been spent in wretchedness,
the same old sins have grown with us, may repentance restore our life
as that of the thief whom You took with You to Paradise.

May the petitions of our poor selves ascend into Your presence
and obtain from You healing for us and all our people,
O Healer of all sicknesses.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 53 (52) The fool thinks in his heart, "There is no God..."

RESPONSE

From heaven the Lord looks down upon the children of men
to see if there be one who ponders, one who seeks God.
All have turned away from Him, every one is depraved.
Hasten, Lord, come and save Your people.
Restore Your people's fortunes,
that they may know what is joy, what is true happiness.

What has become of you, dearly beloved soul?
See how we have fallen in an abyss of evil.
All sorts of detestable things get hold of us.
Thieves have broken in and robbed us and stripped us of our beauty.
No shame is left in us though all our coverings have been taken away.
Great Gardener of Paradise, restore us all to our former inheritance.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Door of Mercy which is open to sinners...
As on Thursday in the First Half, p.84

Hymn

Come, O penitents, listen to what the Holy Spirit says.
How fearful the day when the Mighty One comes for judgement,
to judge all nations and races, all tribes and families.
Blessed is he who has served in His presence by night and by day.

If man trembles with fear at the sight of a lightning in the sky,
who will stand in the presence of the Heavenly King, who sits
on clouds of light, and before whom the Fiery Ones stand in awe,
the Judge of all generations. Blessed be the diligent.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Come to Jesus, beloved, the King who gives victory,
and beseech Him in vigils, with fasting and prayer, tears and sighs,
that He may remove from this world all anguish and distress,
and make His peace and tranquility dwell in the four quarters.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Days, months and years vanish like shadows but the fear of God
remains. Blessed is he who loves it. At the dread judgement
it will be his strength, it will make him stand
and he will enter the inheritance of the Kingdom and life eternal.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid.
Hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful ones and the angels
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

We feel miserable, Lord, but we turn to repentance,
and in spite of our wretchedness prayer becomes sweet.
Have pity on this wretchedness which hardens the heart
on account of the iniquity of our hands, O Lover of Humankind,
and receive our little tears and grant forgiveness.

When I approach You, do not rise against my soul which has sinned.
It has no great thing to offer from its empty treasury,
only two drops of tears, the two coins of the widow,
who offered everything she had, her whole living.

My soul has sinned much more than the widow and suffers great want.
How heavy are the debts that she has incurred!
Lord of all debts, grant pardon and give consolation.
Unless Your forgiveness comes my soul is dead.

Glory to You, Lord, to whom it is so natural to forgive
whenever You see a soul turning to repentance.
Forgive its debts and pardon its faults and heal its sicknesses,
that it may praise You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God! Hear us, O God! Be gracious to the whole world!

And make the hearts of the children of men turn to repentance.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p. 11

Psalm 56 (55) Be gracious to me, O God, for men crush me...

RESPONSE

Exalted One, when fear seizes us we put our trust in Your love.
In You alone do we boast. You are our refuge. We fear not.
What can flesh do when we know that You are with us?
Rescue us from death and keep our feet from stumbling
that we may walk in Your presence, O God, in the land of life.

Beloved, let us not look for consolation in this passing world.
Let us not set our hearts on things that do not last.
Truly the whole world is but a shadow.
It burdens those who love it and it leads them astray.
Grant us to love You, O Good and Gentle One,
for Your love is our delight in this world and in the next.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who calls sinners to repentance...
As on Thursdays in the First Half p. 87

Hymn

As our Lord said, "Let us watch and pray." While there is time,
let us pray with tears and compunction of heart.
Let us beg and beseech God to pour His graciousness upon us.
Your holy mouth, our Lord, said, "Call upon Me and I will answer."
The Holy Church calls upon You, "Lord, be gracious to my children."

From the beginning there have been two ways in the creation.
One leads to life and one leads to death.
Let us leave the way of evil which is all death,
and offer supplication to the Good One that we may walk in His steps.
His way is all life. His pathways guide us and help us
to be diligent in repentance and to inherit the Kingdom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

With great fear, Lord, I remember the day of Your judgement
and I shed tears with groanings, knowing how much I have sinned.
A labourer in Your vineyard, the Evil One saw me and was jealous.
He fell on me, but Your hand held me and saved me.
Save me, Lord, that I may not be put at the left side.
May Your body and Your blood be with me and be my strength.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord, in Your goodness, be gracious to us sinners
who turn to You in repentance and knock at Your door.
Receive the prayer of our lips like a fragrant incense
and the groanings of our hearts like a sweet odour.
Do not enter into judgement with Your servants,
for no one is just in Your presence. Good Physician of our hearts,
have compassion on us and be gracious to all.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us, Lord, receive our Service.

And from Your treasure-house,
send us compassion, graciousness and forgiveness.

At night the earthly ones offer praise,
while keeping vigil with the heavenly ones,
and they sing glory to Your Majesty,
who lowered Yourself to us, poor as we are.

In the middle of the night the rational creatures
offer praise to You on earth,
and with the psalms of David, son of Jesse,
they sing glory to You every day.

In the middle of the night the Church,
Your Beloved Bride whom You saved from deceit
by Your Passion and Death and Resurrection,
offers praise to You.

Glory to You, Creator of the days and the nights who have awakened
us to praise You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.
You who hear prayers and answer requests, hear our prayer.
Be reconciled with us, and in Your graciousness answer our requests.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response
O my Saviour, I have defiled Your image in myself.
Torn is the first garment You the Creator wove for me at the beginning.
I have put on the ragged clothes that the Serpent made for me.
I am ashamed, I have sinned against You, Jesus. Do not reject me.
You are the Good Shepherd who seeks out the lost sheep.

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Compassionate Father...
As on Thursdays in the First Half, p. 89

Hymn
Compunction of heart is a gift of divine love,
which leads us to salvation through salutary pain and sorrow.
It keeps us from forgetting the fire of judgement
and dries up in us carnal and intemperate desires.

Remembering how we have indulged in things that are wrong,
we are pierced with pain at this recollection and we become afire
with love for God and consumed with a passion of holy desire,
we yearn for experiencing His love.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Such desire is itself a stirring of love,
the love of the prodigal on the way to his father's house.
Love is the energy that gives strength to the desire.
It is also, knowledge and true possession of the Beloved.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The possession of the Beloved gives all that belongs to Him.
The desire of God is strengthened by the service of the neighbours.
We love friends in God and we love enemies for His sake.
Compunction makes us stay close to God and be at the service of all.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
You who have compassion on sinners,
have compassion on us on the day of Your judgement.

And forgive us our offences
in the abundance of Your goodness.

Breath of Sweetness who take away captive those who fast,
Fragrant Odour wafted on the noble ones,
rejoice us, with them, O our Saviour, in the abode of life.

The hearts of the holy ones are filled with life, spiritual flowers,
as the meadows abound with roses and lilies.
Blessed is he who is worthy to take his delight with them.

The breeze of the resurrection will blow life on them
and rivers of pure joy will gladden them.
Have compassion on us, on that day, O Jesus full of graciousness.

Glory to Him who became food to give us our fill.
Glory to Him who became drink to gladden our hearts.
Glory to Him and to His Father and adoration to the Holy Spirit.

Lord of those above and hope of those below,
receive our Service and be gracious to the whole world.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia. — Be compassionate towards us... p.13 *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p. 16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p. 18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid
Hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful ones and of the angels,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Sons of the Gospel, wash your garments and come to the wedding feast.
Do not come with an unclean garment, this is not suited for the feast.
The Bridegroom will come and look at the guests sitting at table,
and if any one has not a clean garment He will cast him out.

The seasons which run their courses sing Your praise,
each one in its proper time repeats Your story.
Even the darkness proclaims from one end of the earth to the other
that You are the Lord of the night, who commands darkness
to rule over the night. Is it not You who called the darkness night?

Fair praise from the rational creatures is due to you.
All glory from those who remain silent is becoming to You,
and from those who are far, and from those who are near,
and from the whole creation, Lord, honour, glory and praise to You.

Hear us, O God! Hear us, O God! Be gracious to the whole world!

And make the hearts of the sons of men turn to repentance.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As in the Second Half, p.24

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fourth Friday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms and Responses *From the Common Evening Prayers*, ...p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Holy and Glorious One who makes unapproachable His dwelling in holy places, the Lord from whom all blessings flow and who takes pleasure in the penitent who knocks at His door. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Jesus, Fair and Lovely Name whom angels and people desire, You pour out Your love and You shed Your grace on those who approach You. However much we may sin and do wrong, if we turn to You, You rejoice in us and receive us, and You carry us in Your holy hands and You present us to Your Hidden Father, and You pour upon us Your Holy Spirit, making us children of God, partakers of Your Divine Spirit.

Therefore we beseech and we beg of You that You will shed Your mercy on our weakness. Answer us who knock at Your door, Lord. Let us not turn from You in shame, but send Your grace to our help. Remove, Lord, the gloom of sin which is spread over our understanding. Make us worthy to offer prayer to You with power that it may reach beyond all the

cosmic forces on high. Like a Loving Master have mercy on us because of Your Holy Name. Have compassion on our weakness, You who fashioned us. Even so, Lord, our Maker, who brought us to this temporal light, bring us from the darkness of sin to the light of Your knowledge. Show us the way of life and lead us on Your right path. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

You created me and You laid Your hands on me.

On Friday God created Adam from the dust
in His own image and likeness.
And on Friday His people hung on a tree the Son of God.
They crucified Christ the King on the summit of Golgotha.
Glory to Him who fulfilled the Scripture which says,
"He willingly shared the fate of criminals...
He took the place of sinners that they might be forgiven."

He judges the whole world in truth.

He came with His disciples in the garden called Gethsemane
and confessed to them, "The sorrow in My heart crushes Me.
Stay here and keep watch while I go over there to pray."
And He threw Himself face on the ground and prayed:
"Father, take this cup of suffering away from Me...
Yet, not what I will, but Your will be done."

And when He returned to His disciples He found them asleep.
"How is it that you are not able to keep watch with Me?
Pray", He said, "that you will not fall into temptation.
The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."
And in great anguish He prayed even more fervently.
His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.
And an angel came to Him from heaven and strengthened Him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, who lowered Your height and descended to suffer
for the sake of Adam who had grown old in corruption,
and who tasted death on the Cross also for his sake
that You might restore him to his inheritance,
protect all his people who are afflicted and suffering
and make to pass from them all anguish and distress.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

O Good One who came to us in the flesh and for our salvation
bore in Your body the passion and crucifixion and death,
grant peace and tranquility to Your Churches.
Remove from them all rivalries and seeds of disunity.
Strengthen their children that they may keep watch with You,
and praise You and rejoice in Your Resurrection.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

The Church praises You in the songs of her people, Lord.
And the fair trees honour You in the beauty of their colours.
And Your devotees give thanks by the purity of their incense.

By Your grace, Lord, receive this fragrance of spices
which we present before You, and bestow on Your Churches
lasting peace and love and joy and patience and all goodness,
that we may praise You without ceasing.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which You fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

Come, let us take our delight in the words of the Son,
they are full of life and sweeter than honey, honey from the comb
So far we were eating from the tree of knowledge;
but now the tree of life has come that we may eat from it.

The Church is the Paradise of God,
for in her is the tree full of life: the sanctuary
with at its door the tree of knowledge, the Gospel of Life.
Even the friends of this world pluck its fruits every day.

Eve plucked the fruit of death and gave it to Adam.
It was full of death and both died from eating it.
Now man comes to pluck from the tree and to distribute its fruit
to the people who abstain from food and celebrate the Fast.

Glory to the Father who created Adam from the beginning.
Adoration to the Son who saved him from the malediction.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who restored him to his place.
One nature, three persons. To Him be praise.

Blessed are You, Christ, who walked on earth,
according to Your Dispensation, the Economy of Salvation,
to make exiled Adam return to Paradise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn	39 : 21-40:1-8	Joseph thrown in prison. The Lord is with him.
Pr	6 : 12-29	Warnings against adultery.
1P	4 : 7-19	Watchfulness... Suffer for Christ...

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... Show us your ways, Lord...p.8

Lk 15:11-32 The merciful father and the prodigal son.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God, to stand...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

With those from on high, the great powers of the angels,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You as we say,
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures."

With the Winged Creatures we bless You. With the Fiery Ones
we hallow Your Name and bow to You in adoration.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

In His love for us the Firstborn descended
and mingled with the earthly ones, and fasting for forty days
He defeated the Evil One and saved our race from the tyranny of sin.

The Firstborn of the Heavenly Father became man for our sake.
He fasted, was tempted, died on the Cross, and saved us by His death.
Come, all you peoples, confess and worship Him
and offer Him adorations.

Praise is for You, Great and Strong One who defeated the Adversary.
You slew him in single combat while by Your Fast You ennobled us.
To You be praise.

Receive our fast, Lord, and be reconciled with us
through our prayer and our repentance, and direct our steps
on the noble path of Your commandments, O Lover of Humankind.

We confess You, Father, and we adore Your Son whom You sent
for our salvation.
He fasted for forty days and by His fasting He purified us
and gave us an armour by which we can overcome the Adversary.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 57 (56) Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious...

RESPONSE

In the shadow of Your wings we take refuge
till the storms of destruction pass by... Arise, O Lord,
arise and make Your glory shine on earth.
Our hearts are ready, ready to praise You.
We will sing Your praise, we will awake the dawn.

Praise to You, Exalted One, who humbled Yourself
and endured the sufferings of the Cross. Because Adam
fell by the wood, You put him right with God by the Cross.
Blessed are You who descended to save us by Your blood
and You opened to us the door of the Kingdom.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who gave His Cross as a stronghold...

As on Fridays in the First Half, p.97

Hymn

On Friday the Church of believers celebrates the Precious Cross
in which is salvation from the folly of sin for the human family.
Her people turn to sing praise to God, halleluia,
who became man and saved us by His Life-giving Cross.

Moses experienced and revealed the power of the Cross
when he prayed on the mountain with outstretched hands.
Amalek was defeated and the people of Israel were saved.
Halleluia, grant us, like him, to overcome the Adversary by Your Cross.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to the voice which called out from among the trees,
"Adam, Adam, where are you?" And Adam answered,
"I heard Your voice and I hid from You, not daring to Look at You."
Halleluia, blessed is He who descended and saved Adam
and made him return to Paradise.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Thanksgiving to the Son for His boundless love.
He descended on earth to give life to our race.
He carried on His shoulder Adam who had transgressed the command
and gladdened the Wakeful ones by His return. Halleluia, blessed is He
who descended and saved Adam by His Passion, Death and Resurrectio

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which You fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

May Your Cross be a staff to guide the sheep You have found.
May it save them from going astray while running after vain things,
that they may see the truth and by it overcome sorrow!
For You are the Hope and the Giver of help to all who are afflicted.

The Father who sent You gave You up to death for our sake,
that You might set us free from the deception of the Adversary.
We beseech You, our Lord, by the Passion which You endured for us,
be reconciled with us and be gracious to all.

By Your Passion make to die the foul passions that lie hidden in us,
and let us take refuge and rest in Your wounds,
that we may be renewed by the streams of life
which spring and flow from the side opened by the spear.

To You be glory, and thanksgiving and exaltation,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, at all times,
You who pour Your love on the poor and enrich them,
and fill them with all good things and blessings.

Blessed are You, Christ who walked on earth,
according to Your Dispensation, the Economy of salvation,
to make exiled Adam return to Paradise.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 69 (68) : 1-22 Save me, O God, for the waters have risen...

RESPONSE

Save me, O God from the waters of the deep
lest the waves overwhelm Me.
It is for You that I bear reproach
and that shame covers My face.
In My thirst they give Me vinegar to drink.
It is zeal for Your house that consumes Me.
Lord, answer Me, for Your love endures for ever.
Come close to My soul and rescue Me.

On Friday they crucify upon the Cross
Him who sits on the chariot of fire.
They fasten His hands of strength
and mercilessly nail His feet.
He who bears the heights and the depths in His hand
is stretched out on the Cross between two thieves.
Him whose sight the Wakeful ones cannot sustain
the wicked hang on the Wood.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Saviour who made His Cross...
As on Fridays in the First Half, p.100

Hymn

On Friday Death began to reign over Adam
whom God had created, fashioning him with His holy hands
and recognizing him as made in His image and likeness,
when by eating of the tree he made himself a stranger
to the blessedness of Paradise.

The Creator gave a commandment to Adam in the Garden
that he should not taste the fruit and not go near
the tree of knowledge which is in the middle of the Garden.
Eve looked at the fruit and ate and gave it to him
and he was defeated and he fell from his glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to the Mighty One who humbled Himself
and tasted death for our salvation,
and saved Adam in His compassion as He was crucified on Golgotha,
and from His side pierced by the spear
He made to flow to Adam new life and light everlasting.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Who will not rejoice in Your Cross, Lord, who endured suffering for us?
Who will not take refuge in Your Cross
which is a high stronghold for those who worship it? We adore You,
our Saviour, who gave it to us as an armour of victory over sin.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us,
by Your Cross and Your Passion and Your Death.

Christ who were crucified on Friday,
make us to be crucified to sin.

O You who poured Your graciousness on the thief on the Cross
make Your people drink from You and make them eat the bread of life.

By Your Cross, Lord, may Your Church be exalted in all places.
May Your Cross be for us a protection against the Evil One.

Your goodness always clings to You who lowered Yourself to us,
poor as we are. Spare Your Church which, with You,
is lifted up on the arms of Your Cross.

Glory to You from Your people exalted by Your crucifixion.
Thanksgiving to the Father who sent You.
And to the Holy Spirit the highest exaltation.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p. 11

Common Response

On Friday the Firstborn of the Godhead ascended the Cross
for the sake of Adam who had acted foolishly.
The Son of God was smitten on His face,
His hands were pierced by the nails
and His ears bore derision and mockery.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who tore in pieces the register of our sins...
As on Fridays in the First Half, p.102

Hymn

Eve ate the fruit and reaped bitter death.
All the children of men were implicated in her action.
As she inclined her ear to the enticements of the Serpent, she lost
her innocence and brought malediction to Adam and all his children.

In Your goodness, O God, You fashioned us in Your image with love.
In Your graciousness and compassion forgive our offences and sins,
and drive away from us the Deceiver who seeks to lead us astray.
May Your will be fulfilled in us at all times
that we may rejoice in Your Kingdom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to Your mercy and goodness, who made Adam out of the dust.
Glory to Your mercy and compassion, who inclined Yourself again.
Glory to You and to Him who sent You and to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, Lord, Your graciousness in the two worlds.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Receive our service, our Lord, and open Your door to our prayer.
In Your compassion be reconciled with us who have deeply offended You.
By Your Cross strengthen us that our faith in You may be strong
and that Your love may rule in us for ever.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Let us offer our adoration to Christ who was crucified on Friday
and by the blood from His side heals all our sores.

Your graciousness, our Lord, moved You to redeem sinners
and You sanctified Adam by Your precious blood.

Because You loved Adam You were brought low for his sake,
and because of his greediness they nailed You on the Cross.

Because of the hand stretched out to the tree
You offered Your hands to be nailed to the Cross.

Blessed is He who by His Cross reconciles us with His Father
and makes us partakers of the Holy Spirit.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia... Be compassionate towards us...p.13, *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16.
The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which You fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

For your sake He humbled Himself to littleness.
For nine months He was in the Virgin Ewe.
For your sake He came to birth and childhood, while
the Wakeful Ones of heaven and the shepherds sang praise to Him.
For your sake the Venerable Old Man carried Him solemnly,
Hannah the sage prophetess sang beautiful praises for Him.
For your sake He came to the waters of the river Jordan,
and was baptized to sanctify baptism for you.
For your sake He endured fast and asceticism,
and fought strenuously against the Evil One.
For your sake He performed miracles and signs,
and rode upon an ass and received praises from children.

For your sake He ate the lamb in the upper room,
and revealed the mystery to the company of the disciples.
For your sake He endured the passion and the crucifixion,
and tasted death that you might be brought to life from death.
And He rose, made you rise, O children of Adam, from the fall.
He made you ascend with Him
and reconciled your race with the Wakeful Ones.
For your sake He descended, the Fulfiller of Prophecy,
and taught the unlearned the practice of wisdom.

All these the Son of the Virgin endured for you!
Even as you are still sunk in the mire of sin,
O sleeper, arise and put on strength and fortitude
against the Evil One, the Hater of all beauty,
on the watch for your destruction
and thirsting for your perdition. Be awake!
Follow the Cross, the fence that mends all breaches.

Overcome the Crafty Deceiver by repentance,
wage battle with him with vigils, fast and prayers,
suffering and deep groanings.
Call on Grace, the Merciful Mother,
who holds you by the hand and leads you to uprightness,
asking from Justice pardon for your sins and transgressions.
Do not be idle or slothful in the face of the Evil Doer,
who never tires of fighting against humankind.

Arise, sinner, offer praise with thanksgiving
to the Hidden Father and to the Son
who is from Him, equal in being,
and to the Holy Spirit a garland of praises and profound adoration.

Praise to Him, who is one nature in three persons.
Blessed are You, Christ, who walked on earth
according to the Divine dispensation,
that by it exiled Adam be raised to Paradise.

Intercessions and Prayer

As on every Friday of the Great Fast, p.23

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fourth Saturday of the Great Fast
Saint Joseph Spouse of the Virgin Mary

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to Father...p.1

Opening Prayer

Lord, God the Father, who chose Joseph, Son of Jacob, to be according to the Law the spouse of Mary, the Blessed Mother of Christ our Saviour, to bring up Your Well-beloved Son during the time of His Economy in the flesh, grant that we may imitate his love towards You. Like him may we occupy ourselves night and day in the service of Your Son, and by his prayers end our life like him beneath the wings of Your grace. And with him in the Paradise of eternal light we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Only Son and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen...

Triple Adoration
Come let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 15 (14) Lord, who shall be admitted to Your tent...

RESPONSE
Today, the feast of Saint Joseph, every creature rejoices
and the Churches sing praise to God
who chose him to be the father of His Son made man,
when He took flesh from Mary by the Holy Spirit.

Come, beloved, let us call blessed Joseph the Just.
Let us mangnify him who merited
to be called the father of our Lord made man
and was given to His service night and day.

Evening Psalms We call upon You. Lord, hear us...page 5

RESPONSE
You are blessed, Joseph the Just, who merited
that He who created the heaven and the earth
and who is the Son of the Most High
should be considered your son.

You are blessed to have for spouse
the Mother of the Son of God
whom all the peoples of the earth
proclaim for ever blessed.

You are blessed to have brought up by your own hands
the Mighty One who sustains the universe
and to have assisted Him in growing up to manhood
while He remained subjected to you.

You are blessed because He lived with you
eating, drinking and sleeping at your side,
and working under your eyes
and growing up under your care.

We praise the Father to whom you were well pleasing.
We adore the Son whom you served.
We give thanks to the Holy Spirit
who was manifested to you by His angel.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord .. Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise .. to God, the Hidden Father who chose Joseph from among all men to be the husband of Mary who was Mother of Jesus, His Son, and to be here on earth the father of Him who was known as the carpenter's son. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Praise to You, Eternal God, Father of all good, for all the great things You have done and are doing for us. And when You wanted to give a husband to her whom You had chosen to be the Mother of Your Word, whom You sent to become a son of man, chose Joseph and betrothed him to Mary, the Virgin who was to give birth to Jesus. When before their marriage he found that she was with child he thought of breaking their

engagement but secretly, for fear of causing any disgrace to her. Before You made him realise the mystery that had taken place in Mary, Joseph was afraid to commit his life to her. It seemed to him that Mary belonged to somebody greater than himself, to God, and it would have been presumptuous to take her as the partner of his life. But as soon as the mystery was disclosed and he knew that it was by the Holy Spirit that the child had been conceived, he perceived and accepted Your call, in spite of the apparently disgraceful circumstances, to take Mary home, with him as his wife, and to be to the Divine Child a father, a guardian, a protector, a witness to His growth in wisdom, and a guide to Him in gaining favour with God and man.

Therefore, on the day of your remembrance, Saint Joseph, intercede for the Churches that they may remain open and perceive God's mysterious interventions in daily life. In the humble tasks which we perform, in the relations or the contacts we make with others, He is there, all along. In the events of which we are witnesses or in whom we are actors, the son of God still continues to grow as long as His Kingdom is not fully established. Obtain for us that in all these we may be found faithful like you who remain to this day Joseph the Just, because when Mary was with child you took her home with you and served as a father to her son, who under you was growing up to be the Saviour and the salvation of the world. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Peace be with you, said Gabriel to Mary,
Blessed among women, the Lord is with you.
I left Him in the heights, but I find Him with you.
Yes, you carry Him who carries the creation.

You are blessed, Joseph, great among the just,
Who merited to serve on earth as father of the Christ
Who was brought up as your son in your house,
And was known as the son of Joseph the Carpenter.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

You are blessed, you who merited to carry in your arms
the Son of glory whom Mary brought forth for us.
You fondled Him and your lips kissed His face,
you held Him in your arms as a baby and played with Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

You are blessed, Joseph, because in your house
shone the great Sun which dazzles the angels.
Blessed are you to have rejoiced in His gentle light
and to have had your spirit filled
with the brightness of His beauty.

Lord, in the heavenly Jerusalem, make memory of the dead
who received Your body and were purified by Your living blood.
When You sit in Your seat of judgement
to separate the wicked from the good, may they,
and we with them stand at Your right side, with faces unveiled.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
O Lord, may the spiritual offering presented to You by Joseph,
the chosen spouse of Your Mother, during his life,
make our offering of incense well pleasing to You,
by the works of virtue and the trials which he bore for You.

Strengthen us that like him we may always
serve You in purity and holiness,
and love You more than anything in the world
and not undertake anything but for You and Your love,
that in our life and in our death Your name be praised by us
and that of Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayers be with us, O Joseph the Just,
may your prayers always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to all.

Saint Joseph, father and servant of the Saviour,
intercede for us with the carpenter's Son,
that He may be compassionate to us and to the whole world.

Blessed are you, Joseph, spouse of Mary, the Mother of the King,
her partner in life and companion as well,
and guardian of Jesus, her Son, guide of the Child
who grew up under you at Nazareth,
filled with God's wisdom, and you received His confidence.

The Saviour who by a gesture rules the whole creation
received food and drink at your hand and slept at your side.
The Son of God who created heaven and established the earth
you strengthened His first faltering steps in this world.

Therefore the Church in every place honours you
who brought up her Well-beloved Bridegroom,
You are her intercessor, you are her glory.
By you she obtains mercy from her Lord for her children.

Glory to the Father who chose Joseph among all men.
Adoration to the Son who willed to be the carpenter's Son.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who filled Joseph with His gifts,
to fulfil with dedication the mission entrusted to him.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil.

From all who take refuge in you with faith.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The just maintains his course in spite of all.
He whose hands remain clean grows strong,
nothing shall ever shake him.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He flourishes like a palm tree in the courts of our God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 1:18-21 Joseph was a just man... rising from sleep he did as the angel commanded him.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who revealed the perfection of the Gospel in the life of Joseph the Just, true servant of God in imitation of You, the Servant of the Lord, help us always to set our minds on God's Kingdom and all that it requires from us before anything else, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who revealed Yourself to Your disciples as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and yet willed to be the Son of the village carpenter, make us also find our delight in a life of work and prayer, in imitation of You and of him who was known by his people as Your father, Joseph the Just, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God who during Your life on earth like Your father Saint Joseph provided for Your needs by the work of Your hands, grant to all those who seek work for their livelihood to find it, and by the intercession of Your father the carpenter, may help be obtained, by all those who suffer or are in want, we beseech You, and we will cry three times,

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us Lord from our sleep...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE
It is right and good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing, Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
make us also, earthly ones, keep vigil to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Come, beloved, let us be diligent in the praise of our Creator,
thanking Him with Joseph the Just whom He exalted above all...
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Rejoice, O Church, on the Feast of Saint Joseph,
protector of your Bridegroom, who guards you in His name.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who is One in Three, and the Three are One,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who walks not on the path of the wicked...

RESPONSE
Happy indeed is the man
who takes his delight in the law of the Lord,
who listens to the word of God
and keeps it.

He is truly a friend to the Lord,
His father and mother, His brother and sister.
Planted beside the waters of life,
he bears fruit in plenty.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to God, the Eternal Father, who chose Joseph the Just, to be the spouse of Mary the Mother of His Only Son, when He was made flesh, and was brought up in his house, and carried in his arms, and grew up under his authority. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Who can describe the brightness of your glory, O Joseph the Just, spouse of her who is more exalted than every creature in heaven and on earth?... Who would not acknowledge the excellence of your way of life and your uprightness of which the Gospels bear witness? It was through you, Joseph, son of David, that Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour was the Son of David. Who would not be filled with wonder at your chastity, seeing that when God wished in His supreme wisdom to guard the virginity of Mary whom He had chosen as the Mother of His Son, it was you whom He elected among all men, and He honoured you, as man was never honoured? Who would not marvel at your humility, you the carpenter who earned your bread and that of the holy family in the sweat of your face? Wonderful perfection, unspeakable greatness, divine wisdom which surpasses all comprehension!

Therefore we ask of you, humble and great Joseph, that you beseech for us the Son of God whom you brought up in His youth with Mary your spouse who was His Mother, that He may rejoice our souls with the sweetness of His grace, and strengthen us that we may please Him in

all our actions, and imitate you in purity of soul and body until our last breath, that at the hour of our death we may obtain that Jesus our Saviour may come to our help with Mary His Mother, as He was at your side at the time of your departure from this world, and He closed your eyes with His holy hands, to whom with you and all the saints we offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
Glory to God who revealed to His servant the great mystery,
that Mary's Child had been conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and in spite of the disgrace that might fall on Joseph,
prompted him to take Mary home with him.

"The Child", said the messenger, "would have no father.
Be a father to Him whom God gave to your betrothed.
Be a guardian to the Child, give Him your love and bring Him up."
How great the mission entrusted to you, Joseph the Just!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Joseph, you were a father to the Divine Child.
Not only because you took charge of Him,
but because it was God's will that you be a father to His Son
who willed to become a son of man for the salvation of the world.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

God wanted you to be the father of His Son incarnate,
and asked you, Joseph, to give the Child His name, Jesus:
God saves. Truly He saves His people from their sins.
All praise to Him who brings salvation to the world.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 80 (79) O Shepherd of Israel, hear us...

RESPONSE
Stir up Your might, O God,
come to our help, come!
God of all cosmic forces, bring us back,
let Your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Come, say the Spirit and the Bride,
accept the water of life, a free gift to all who desire it.
The Offspring of David, the Bright Star of Dawn,
says to the Churches, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to God, the Hidden Father, who when He sent His Son to take flesh from Mary for the salvation of the world chose Joseph from among all men on earth to be her husband and to serve as the father of His Son. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Praise to You who chose the Blessed Joseph and gave him to Mary as a good and just man, perfect in charity, of noble purity and shining by all good works, to be the husband of the Mother of God and to bring up her Son and make Him grow and become strong, full of wisdom, with God's favour upon the whole family. Therefore we rejoice and are happy to praise you, Joseph, and we honour you while we say: "Blessed are you, O man of faith, who heard God's word and committed your life to Him by assuming the responsibility of the holy family, earning its bread at the sweat of your brow until you were helped by Him who was known as the carpenter's son, yet had come from His Father in heaven to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Therefore we ask you, Saint Joseph, intercede for us that we may perceive how our daily labour is bound with the coming of the Kingdom of God, how God Himself looks upon us and through our daily tasks draws us to Himself, so that when we leave the Church after prayer to carry out our daily work, we may remain immersed in Him in the performance of our work, and adhere to Him with all our heart and all

our strength. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to Him, holy and undivided Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
Blessed are you, Joseph the Just.
From among all heroes there is not one like you,
to whom was betrothed the queen of heaven and earth,
halleluia, halleluia, who gave birth to the Son of God.

Your whole life was pleasing to God, O Joseph the Just,
advanced as you were in humility and purity of heart.
Your whole composure breathed peace and serenity.
Halleluia, halleluia, You were perfect in the love of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

In the service of the Son, O Just One,
you met with great trials, but all the hardships
which you endured on His behalf became light to you,
halleluia, halleluia, hence your name is highly exalted.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed are you, Joseph, who lived with Jesus from His infancy.
With Him you prayed, with Him you took your meals,
with Him you set out on long journeys and with Him you took rest,
halleluia, halleluia, and you worked with Him.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heaven...p.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Glory to You, O Christ,
on the day of the Commemoration of Joseph the Just.

You honoured him on earth,
and You exalted him in heaven.

Your great deeds, O Joseph, son of Jacob, are recorded
in the books of the Old Covenant as well as of the New.
There is narrated how Joseph, son of Jacob,
became great in Egypt and how he satisfied the Egyptians.

The Father told you, "Be in my house",
as Pharaoh had said to Joseph at that time.
To us He tells also, "All you who are in need,
go to Joseph and he will open My treasury to you."

Who could recount the innumerable helps
which you gave to those who were in spiritual need?
To us also who magnify your memory, by your prayer,
may the treasure-house of the Son, your Lord, be opened.

Grant us to love Christ like you, and to serve Him in our lives,
and to see Him on the day of our death.
Praise to the Father who chose you, O Joseph,
and to the Son who obeyed you, and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord of the heavenly ones and hope of the earthly ones,

Receive our prayers, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of the Bent Woman
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Opening Prayer

Sea of Graciousness and Compassion, who granted pardon to sinners and came to find those who were lost, and to recall those who had gone astray, and had compassion on him whom thieves had wounded, we beseech You in the name of the love You have for our poor race, that You will heal all diseases and wounds, both seen and unseen. Blot out all our sins. Make a good memory of us and of all those who have followed You in Your Passover with faith, that together we may give praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, my soul...

RESPONSE
Lord, how great You are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretched out the heavens like a tent.
You make the winds Your messengers.

You make springs gush forth even on the mountains.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve man's needs;
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen his heart.

Psalm 88 (87) Lord, my God, I call for help by day...

RESPONSE
O God, You pour forth Your riches according to Your bounty
but we, idle people, have neglected Your work,
passing our days in idleness and unmindful of Your praise.
You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation.

No priest, no Levite helped Adam to rise from his fall
until our Saviour came from His dwelling place,
and by His blood cancelled the account of our sins.
You are blessed, Lord, the Strong.
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...page 5

RESPONSE
Lord, we call upon You, answer us,
hear our cry and receive our prayer.

Blessed is the Son of the Good One
who in His graciousness visits the earth with His helps.

He cleanses the lepers by His word
and makes the deaf and dumb to hear and to speak.

He raises the daughter of Jairus
and gives life to the son of the widow.

He enters into the sea like a man
and because He is God, He calms its waves.

The woman who suffered severe bleeding and the sinful woman
He forgives their faults and heals their infirmities.

Glory to Him who in His love
pardons our faults and heals our infirmities.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who pours out His blessings and sheds His compassion abundantly on His creation, who alone is the Compassionate One and the Lover of Humankind, the hope and the salvation of all flesh. We entreat Your graciousness and we make supplication to Your compassion, that You may grant and bestow on Your servants the pardon of their sins and the forgiveness of their faults, at this time of evening...

God, You are by nature eternally merciful and You pour forth continually Your compassion upon us, as You have said by Your holy mouth: "I came not to call the just but sinners and those who do evil." You are He who gave to Your disciples a wonderful gift when You said to them: "I put in your hands the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. All that you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and all that you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." You received back Simon Peter after he had denied You and You bestowed on him preeminence. You received Mathew, the tax collector, making him to pass from the company of the publicans to that of Your apostles. You called to You the apostle Paul, snatching him from the number of Your persecutors to place him in the ranks of the persecuted. You purified the stains of the adulterous and pardoned the faults of the sinful woman and made known her name in Your life-saving proclamation of the Gospel. You received back the prodigal son after he had lost himself in evil ways and thus You encouraged us to true repentance. You carried the lost sheep on Your shoulders and brought it back to the fold of the house of Your Father. You heard the petitions of the thief and gave him entry into Paradise.

And now, O Lord God, Lover of Humankind, lower Yourself once more to our wretchedness. Hear and answer the petitions which we address to You, now and at all times. Be gracious to us all. Have mercy and compassion. To You belong honour, glory and power, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Our Saviour spoke in parables, images and symbols and said:
"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure which is in a field.
A man finds it and sells all that he has to buy that field,

because he has found riches which cannot be stolen from him."
Glory to the Son of God who gives life to our humanity.
Instead of this world we inherit the Kingdom with Him.

The Kingdom is like to a man who had prepared a feast.
He invited his own to come but no one wished to partake of it.
Then he sent his servants to gather all the peoples
and from all quarters they came and the house was filled.
But among them he found a man clothed in a soiled garment
unsuited to a feast and he cast him out into the darkness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Word and Wisdom of the Father composed many parables.
There was a rich man, who lived luxuriously in pleasure,
and a poor man who would have liked to eat of his food.
Lazarus died and the angels brought him to Abraham, his father.
The rich man also died and went to the depths of hell
because he would not have compassion on his flesh.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Who is the woman who, having ten pieces of silver,
if she loses one will not light a lamp and sweep the house
and look carefully everywhere until she finds it?
When she finds it she calls her neighbours to rejoice with her
because she has found the piece which she had lost.
In the same way God rejoices over one sinner who repents.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the kingdom
which does not pass away and will not destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Christ, Sweet Incense, by Your blood
You reconciled Your Father with our race
which had fallen away from God's love,

By Your Economy of Salvation You brought back Adam,
who had been driven out of his Kingdom
and Your revealed that You are the Saviour of the world.

Answer our requests and pardon our sins,
and those of all who have followed You with faith in Your Passover.
Make us worthy with them of the glory of Your Majesty
with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who heal the afflicted.
In Your compassion relieve our sufferings and deliver us from all evil.

Like the sinful woman we beseech Your Goodness,
O Good One, open to us Your treasure-house
and bestow on us the pardon of our sins.

When the head of our race, expelled from the Paradise of joys,
descended to this earth, crushed by God's malediction,
it was like the story of Jericho, the fallen city.

A priest passed by without coming to his aid.
Some Levites also and they did not bind up his sores.
But You, our Lord, with wine and oil tended and healed his wounds.

Glory to You, the Desired of contrite hearts.
Glory to You, who call those who are lost.
Glory to You and to the Father who sent You,
and to the Holy Spirit, at all times.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
O God, who is like You
who do wonders and miracles?
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

You hear the poor and the downtrodden.
You deliver the afflicted and the oppressed
from the Evil One and his powers.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 8:22-25 Jesus calms the storm.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who converse unceasingly with Your people where the living voice of the Gospel resounds in the Churches, move them constantly towards the fulness of Your truth, until Your words reach their fulfilment in them, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who commanded to the storm and it obeyed and there was great calm on the sea, make Your calm and peace reign on the troubled sea of this world and in the hearts of Your followers, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who when Your time approached set Your face resolutely towards Jerusalem without turning away from suffering, strengthen us in carrying our cross with You, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste, and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, grant us by a renewed faith in You and the testimony of good works, to prepare ourselves for the Passover celebrations, Your Blessed Passion, Death and Resurrection, that we may be found worthy of the wedding feast which does not come to an end, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE
With those on high, the great powers of the angels,
we offer thanks to You and we praise You as we say:
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures."

With the Winged Creatures we bless You.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your name, O Lover of Humankind.
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures."

The Sea of Compassion was moved from on high to be sent
to the mortal ones to relieve our sufferings and heal our diseases.
To Him be praise, the Creator of all creatures.

Christ the King, in His compassion made to open the right hand
that was withered, and by this He manifested His power.
To Him be praise, the Creator of all creatures.

He opened the ears of the deaf
thus revealing Himself luminously as the Son of the Creator.
He multiplied the bread, manifesting Himself as the Preserver.
To Him be praise, the Creator of all creatures.

By defeating the wicked, He showed Himself as the Just Judge
and by calling the nations, as the Compassionate One.
To Him be praise, the Creator of all creatures.

It is good to offer praise, glory, adoration and highest honour,
to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 119 (118): 129-144 Your will is wonderful indeed...

RESPONSE
Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore we gladly keep it.
You impose Your will with justice
and with absolute truth.

Jesus threw Himself on the ground and prayed,
that this hour might pass Him by.
"Father take this cup away!
Yet not what I will, but Your will be done!"

Who is to us, like You, our Lord?
You are the Physician of our souls.
You heal the diseases of humankind
and You forgive our debts.

For the leper, You cleansed his body.
and You strengthened his soul.
For us also, our Lord, cleanse our iniquity
that we may offer thanksgiving for Your goodness.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His love and care for humankind...

As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, Night Vigil, First Watch p.35

Hymn

A woman who had long been suffering from severe bleeding
and had spent much for treatment for the last twelve years,
came in the crowd behind Jesus, saying to herself:
"If I can only touch the edge of His cloak I shall be cured."

All at once Jesus felt that power was going out of Him
and turning around said: "Who touched My clothes?"
For when she touched His cloak her bleeding stopped at once
and she felt inside herself that she was cured of her trouble.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

"You see the crowd all around, pressing upon You,"
said the disciples to Jesus, "and You ask, 'Who touched Me?'"
But Jesus paid no attention to them and kept looking around,
as He wanted to see who had done it.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The woman realizing what had happened
came trembling with awe and joy and fell at His feet.
"My daughter," said Jesus, "Your faith has cured you."
Go in peace and be free for ever from your trouble."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 119 (118): 145-160 I call with all my heart...

RESPONSE
Lord, our eyes watch through the night
to ponder over Your promises to Your people.
We pray before dawn to cry for help,
hoping for the fulfilment of Your word.

As crowds gathered to hear Jesus, He cured their diseases.
But He would also withdraw to lonely places
or go up on a high mountain
to spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Son of God, You lowered Yourself to the earthly ones
to raise them up by Your abasement
and make them ascend to Your Father.
It is good to praise You, O God.

Blessed is the Firstborn
who fasted for our sake,
to make our nature to return to its first place
from where it had been driven away by greediness.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord. Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Heavenly physician who in His goodness...

As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, Night Vigil. Second Watch, p.37

Hymn
As Jesus was preaching to the crowd beside the lake,
Jairus, an official of the synagogue, came to Him with a request.
"My little daughter is very sick; she is almost dying.
Please, come and place Your hand on her that she may be cured."

Now the messengers came to Jairus from his house and said:
"Do not trouble the Teacher any longer; your daughter has died."
Jesus paid no attention to what they said but told Jairus:
"Do not be afraid, only have faith."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

At his house there was loud crying and wailing
Jesus said to the mourners: "The child is not dead, but asleep."
Hearing His words all the people laughed at Him.
But He entered the room where the child was lying.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Taking her by the hand, He said: "Little girl, get up!"
And she got up, and at once started walking about.
At this all the people were overcome with amazement.
But Jesus simply said, "Give her something to eat."

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p 13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Lord, be gracious to all, Son who healed all the afflicted.

In Your compassion relieve our sufferings and deliver us from all evil,

Jesus, True Light,
who gave light to the eyes of the blind,
enlighten the eyes of our minds
that we may walk in the light of Your commandments.

Christ who made that woman to straighten up
who had been bent over for many years,
straighten our hearts
that have become crooked through our sins.

Christ who drowned the mob of demons
in the depths of the sea,
drown our wickedness in the sea of Your compassion
and forgive all our faults.

Glory to Him who is One in Three and the Three are One,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them we offer...p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fifth Monday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms with their Responses *All from the Common Evening Prayers...p.4.*

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who is rich and good and abounding in gifts, who is gentle and kind, the Feeder and Provider, who is ready to pardon and who forgives, gracious and full of love. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

We knock at the door of Your graciousness, Good Lord and God of tenderness, that You may do and fulfil everything for us, Your poor and sinful servants, as is fitting to Your goodness. Provide us, from Your blessed treasure-house, with all that we need for the cleansing of all those things which have been done unlawfully by us. Through Your never failing graciousness may our lives, broken on account of the fall, be restored and our frustration be healed. By You may our inner conflicts be appeased and our ignorance be instructed. Change our evil nature into good and our wickedness into holiness. Make us walk in life according to Your will. And in the abundance of Your graciousness, Lord, make us to be diligent workers in Your vineyard. Make us dwell in Your habitation, and be guests at Your marriage feast and partakers

of Your sufferings, that we may share also in Your glory. Make us proficient among those who labour for You, believers in Your word. Let us be sheep of Your flock and lambs of Your fold, little birds beneath Your wings, but eagles in desire for Your flesh and earnest merchants in dealing with Your talents. Above all, help us to praise You with Your Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Our Lord entered a town called Nain and, at the gate,
He met the funeral procession of a young man,
the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.
His heart went out to her and He said, "Do not cry!"
And He walked over and touched the coffin and commanded,
"Young man, get up, I tell you!" And the dead man sat up
and began to talk. And Jesus gave him back to his mother.
And all sang praise, halleluia, halleluia.

Our Lord Jesus was at sea with His disciples and all at once,
like a son of man, He slumbered and slept in the boat.
The sea became rough and a great storm blew.
Simon called Hin, crying, "Rise, Lord! Rise!
Come to our aid! We perish!
Jesus rose and rebuked the wind and the raging waters.
And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.
And they all sang praise, halleluia, halleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

And when Jesus came out of the boat in a lonely place
He saw a large crowd and His heart was filled with compassion for them.
And He began to instruct them in many ways.
And as the sun was beginning to set He fed them all.
How beautiful it was as they sat down on the ground
and He stretched out His hand full of blessings.
He blessed the bread and broke it and gave it to them.
And all ate of that little bread and had their fill.
And they sang praise to Him, halleluia, halleluia.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Light that makes the morning light to shine came.
And the woman who lived in sin said to herself,
"How is it that I am sitting in darkness when Christ is full of light?
I shall sell all that I possess and buy the best ointment
and go to the house of Simon where Jesus is having meal with him."
And she went with an alabaster jar full of perfume and, by His feet,
kneeling behind Him, she washed them with her tears
and dried them with her hair, showing how much she loved Him.
and her sins were forgiven.
And she sang praise to Him, halleluia, halleluia.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord who are rich in gifts and abounding in love,
receive this incense which we present before You,
and let Your compassion be poured out upon us.

Keep away from us the threat of Your justice
and let Your goodness and graciousness come upon us,
so that we may thank and worship and praise You
and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Hymn
Our Lord performed great marvels and many wonders.
As large crowds came to Him bringing with them
the lame, the blind, the cripple, the dumb and all the sick.
He healed them and they sang praise.

Jesus in His Gospel teachers us beautiful things:
that we should shed tears over our many offences, that we may be
of one heart, and that we may love with all our heart,
and have compassion on our neighbour, on all our fellow beings.

Glory to the Son of the Good who lowered Himself
and descended from the place of the Father and walked on earth.
He visited us with His gifts and purified us and hallowed us.
He restores His image in us by His Spirit,
and gives us life and light by the power of His word.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are those who are touched by repentance
and who turn to God with all their heart and all their strength.
On the day when the Saviour will appear in glory,
He will gather them with His chosen people,
from one end of the earth to the other.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord, teach us the way of all Your commandments.
Guard us and make us live by Your goodness.
Make us to stand and watch over the open doors of our senses,
that the treasury of Your gifts may not be squandered.

Supplication Song Lod, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid.
Hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful Ones and the angels,
Hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Physician who heal wounds freely, we beseech You, our Lord,
we have wounds and none can heal them except You.
It is Your work to heal the pains of men, eveyr day,
and as there is no other pain greater than ours, we have come to You.

As the sick on the roads cried out to Jesus from their pain,
we cry to the Son of Man from the depths of our hearts,
"We beg You, Lord, come to us and stay with us, for we are sick.
We are weak, give us Your strength that we may at least reach out to You."

The Compassionate One was on the way to cure the daughter of Jairus
But a woman met Him and touched His garment
and He cured her like a Saviour. We beg You, Lord,
we approach You with our pain that we may be healed.
In Your graciousness, first heal our wounds which have grown old.

To You be praise, Good Physician full of graciousness, who heal
all pains in Your tenderness, as You are compassionate to all.
All thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.
And on us graciousness and kindliness. Blessed be Your Majesty.

Hear us, O God! Hear us, O God! Be gracious to the whole world!

And make the hearts of the children of men turn to repentance.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations Halleluia... Show us Your ways, Lord...p.8
Mark 2: 1-12 Jesus heals the paralytic.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God, to stand...p.9.

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
make us also, earthly ones, keep vigil to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Beloved, the Fast of our Lord is still with us.
Let us celebrate it beautifully and follow it earnestly.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The just and devotees of old celebrated the Fast of our Lord.
Beloved, let us fast like them and be earnest in our whole life.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On account of the food taken by greediness we lost Paradise.
Through fast and self-control we are restored to our first place
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

We offer praise to the Father and thanksgiving to the Son
who proceeds from Him, and to the Holy Spirit our shouts of joy.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 36 (35) The wicked man has evil intentions in his heart...

RESPONSE
O God, Your goodness is like heaven,
Your faithfulness is as wide as the sky.
Your justice is like the mountains.
Your judgements a deep abyss.

Be gracious to us, sinners, who turn to You,
O Son who came to pardon the world.
Wash us from our guilt that with the just and all true believers,
we may find our way to the Kingdom.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Mighty and Strong who alone is Good...

As on the First Monday, Night Vigil, First Watch, p. 46

Hymn

We have come before You at night to experience Your graciousness.
Have compassion on us on account of Your kindliness,
for You are the Good One and the Lover of penitents.
Is it not Your holy mouth that said, "Ask and you will receive?"
We call on You now, as You taught us, hear us as You promised,
O Compassionate One, full of graciousness.

God who came for our salvation and endured suffering and the cross,
do not turn away from us who knock at Your door with sorrow.
Pour forth Your love on all, O Compassionate One.
Have compassion on all on account of Your goodness.
Be reconciled with all as You were reconciled with the Ninevites.
And You kept back the judgement You had pronounced against them.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

O Hope of the living, sent forth from the heights to the mortal ones,
O Great Light who dispel the darkness from the ends of the earth
by Your manifestation, enlighten us by Your light who lie in the
darkness of sin, that we may please You as You will, and experience
Your graciousness and compassion on the great day of Your coming.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

God who pardoned the sinful woman who came to You in tears,
and on the Cross showed Your compassion straightway to the thief
who believed in You, have compassion on us on the day of judgement,
O Great Judge, Judge of judges, when all hidden things are revealed,
and each one will be left before You with his own deeds only,
make Your goodness to shine upon our faces.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid.
Hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful Ones and the angels,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

In the middle of the night the Hebrews went forth from Egypt.
Had they slept there would have been no time to take the riches.
At night let us keep vigil and pray for the Lord's graciousness.
For at night there is great silence and calm.

After waking up, we are filled with wonder at the silence of the night.
Its mystery gives us a peace different from that of the day.
The whole creation is wrapped in silence, even the roads are quiet,
no vehicles, no travellers, no merchants and no workers.

Many people are weighed down by the night, it is heavy on them.
For them sleep is like death they fall into nothingness.
He who keeps vigil and sings praise at night
breaks up the oppression of the night and enters into God's light.

Praise to You by whose coming the creation is enlightened,
the darkness of the night is dispelled and gives way to the light.
Christ the Light, remove from us the darkness of untruth and take us
to the marriage feast of lights. To You be praise, our Lord.

Hear us, O God! Hear us, O God! Be gracious to the whole world!

And make the hearts of the children of men turn to repentance.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 38 (37) O Lord, do not reprove me in Your anger...

RESPONSE
O God You know all my longing, my groaning is not hidden from You,
my heart is throbbing, my strength is spent.
The very light of my eyes is gone. Do not forsake me.
Make haste, come to my help, my God and Saviour.

Is there anyone in the world who has multiplied sins like me?
Let him come and weep and cry out, "How heavy the yoke of evil!
And we took it upon us of our own will!" But how good
to bend the neck to the yoke of the Lord who said, "Come to me,
your souls will find relief, for My yoke is easy, My load is light."

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Good Lord who has compassion on sinners...

As on the First Monday, Night Vigil, Second watch, p. 49

Hymn

Holy Church of believers, sing praise to the Bridegroom
who betrothed you in the waters of baptism, and by His Holy Fast
gives you an armour to defeat the Adversary, halleluia, who is
always walking up and down the earth, seeking one he could devour.

Blessed is Christ who descended and became man from a daughter of
man and was pleased with her. He fasted and as hungry like a son of
man for the sake of Adam who took the fruit and ate in disobedience,
out of greediness, halleluia, and He restored him to his glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to the Son of God who in His love came and became man
and of His own will fasted and was tempted in the wilderness
to defeat the Evil One and deliver us from his snares, halleluia,
Blessed is He who sent Him...

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Grant us, Lord, to fast in purity and holiness,
that by fasting we may be reconciled with Your Majesty.
May Your Exalted Godhead be pleased with it, halleluia,
and may we be worthy of Your graciousness.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Grant us, our Lord, that we may all fast in holiness,
with purity of heart that makes it acceptable to Your Godhead.

Christ who received the fast of the just and devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayer and be gracious to all.

By fasting with purity of heart the mind is taken up to heaven and
experiences a beauty which cannot be spoken of by earthly ones.
The mind sees things truly astounding high above in heaven,
the Watchers from on high who draw life from Him who is.

Son of God, be to us a Physician and a Nurse, for our pains are bitter,
our wounds grievous and there is no just man among us.
Our hearts are evil they breed malice, we beseech You,
pour Your graciousness on us from Your treasure-house.

Blessed are You, Christ, who save our lives from the tyrant
and give us the Fast to join battle victoriously with the Evil One.
Because Adam failed in the test with the tree, a prey to the Evil One,
the Mighty One rose and gave him victory by His fast.

Glory to the Father who sent His Son for our salvation.
Adoration to the Son who fasted fourty days for our sake.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who gives us strength to fast before Him.
And on us His graciousness at all times. Amen. Amen.

Christ who received the fast of the just and the devotees of old,
receive our fast and our prayers and be gracious to all.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

Our faults and offences have multiplied,
our iniquities have poured over our heads.
All day long we go about mourning.
On You, our Lord, we set our hope.
You will answer, O Lord our God.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the one God, the Creator, the Merciful Lord...
As on the First Monday, Night Vigil, Third Watch, p.51

Hymn

Our Lord Jesus, under Your Cross we take refuge every day,
and by it You deliver us from the Evil One
and You make us ascend to the Kingdom on high.

Carrying the Cross on Your back, You went out of Jerusalem,
O Jesus, to draw to Yourself the hearts of all men,
that we might carry the Cross after You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to You, Jesus, who were crucified on Golgotha, in Jerusalem,
and when Your voice resounded, as You cried out to the Father,
the rocks were split, the dead rose and they sang praise.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The promise which the thief received from You, Lord Jesus,
on the summit of the Cross, may we also receive it and with all those
who followed You in Your Passover, we will confess the Holy Trinity.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid.
Hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful Ones and the angels,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see Your Compassion,
and confess Your Name, and take refuge under Your Cross.
Be gracious to all, O Lover of Humankind.

Give us, Lord, a pure heart to address our petitions to You
and from the abundance of Your love
give us the wisdom of life.

May the armour of the Spirit be our protection against
the Evil One and his powers. Set Your Name as a seal
upon our hearts, and our lives will be saved from perdition.

We receive Your body and we drink Your blood,
and we thus live in You, Jesus,
and may Your Cross be our stronghold against all harm.

Glory to Your Name, Lord, Good King among all kings.
And may our petitions enter into Your presence
as a sacrifice and pure oblation for Your Majesty.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful Ones and the angels,
Hear our supplications and be gracious to the whole world.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

Halleluia, halleluia... Be Compassionate towards us... p.13 *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p. 16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to us. Lord, receive our services.

And from Your treasure-house,
send us compassion, graciousness and forgiveness.

Tell me, woman, how did You take to this life?
How have you fallen so low? You are a slave to your passions.
Your life is broken. How could you exchange the garment
of white linen against the rags in which you are clothed?
Tell me your troubles. I have not come to rise against you.
I came to go with you and share your misery.

Whole gatherings of people hasten to enter the house and be healed
by Jesus. If His disciples happen to see me they will send me away.
Simon saw the harlot enter his house and come near to the Lord.
In his mind he thought, "That woman! With such a reputation.
how can He allow to be touched by her?
The Lover of Humankind, our Lord, then turned to him and said,

"Simon, I entered your house and you gave Me no water for my feet.
But this poor creature washed them with her tears.
She kissed them and she wiped them with her hair.
Truly what I say now shall be recorded in the Gospel.
Go woman, your sins are forgiven, your faith and your love
have saved you, but turn away from your follies."

Glory to You, Good Lord. Glory to You, Long-suffering.
Glory to You, Gracious One. Glory to You, Lover of Humankind.
Glory to You who for us endured the Passion and the Cross.
Glory to You who give Your love to sinners and they come to You,
And to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit adoration, honour,
and highest exaltation.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As in the Second Half of the Great Fast, p.24

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fifth Tuesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father... p.1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms with their Responses *All from the Common Evening Prayers*, p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...	Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Pardoner of offences and Forgiver of sins, who is gracious and compassionate and long-suffering and full of grace and truth, the Healer of all diseases and the Nurse of all wounds. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord God, good and merciful, who are glorious, and who glorify glorious deeds, we call to You for help and for the strengthening and support of our weakness. By Your Fast You glorified the fast of the believers and their abstinence from food, and You revealed it as the gate of life, the entrance to the heavenly Paradise and the call to enter blessedness. In this combat of the spiritual fast, a contest of fortitude and endurance, we beseech You and entreat You, Lord Lover of Humankind, Father and Sender of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Author and Perfector and Crowner of this spiritual contest, strengthen us all by the grace and power of Your Spirit, all holy and life-giving, that our fast may bear fruits of good zeal and readiness of spirit, in soul and body, so that in patience and constancy, like keen athletes we may run this contest of fortitude with

watchfulness and purity and continence, and with fasting from evil, in asceticism and discipline of body, soul and spirit, with prayers and supplications and tears of repentance, while we cleanse ourselves from every stain of sin, and store up spiritual riches in our hearts. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Uniquely Beloved Son and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

How truly great was the faith of the centurion
when he made his request to the Lord of all,
"Be gracious to me, Word of the Heavenly Father,
and let Your image fashioned by Your own hands live!"
Halleluia, blessed is He who made his faith to triumph.
At that very moment the servant of the centurion was healed.

Beloved, great wonders and marvels were seen
when our Lord visited the poor race of Adam.
He gave life to the daughter of Jairus,
He resurrected the son of the widow,
He raised up is friend Lazarus,
halleluia, halleluia, and gave a token of the resurrection.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Let all the lepers who were cleansed
and the blind whom He made to see the light,
offer praise with us to the Life-giving Son who lowered Himself
to give life to our weakness and save our race from the fall.
Halleluia, halleluia, glory to Him who sent Him
and renewed our race worn out by sin.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to the God of graciousness who cannot be comprehended
yet descended in a small place, and as a son of man
made His dwelling in it. He made humankind the temple
of His Majesty and the altar on which His divinity comes to rest.
He joins with our spirit and makes our heart into a sanctuary.
In it dwells the Exalted Godhead and we adore Him.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
We make supplication to You, Gracious Lord,
that you will receive from us, Your weak and sinful servants,
this fragrant incense which we present before You.

We pray that for us and for all, and in every place,
it may be for the removal of evil, the fulfilment of Your divine will,
and the glory and praise of Your all precious Name,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our help,
hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful Ones and the angels,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

When the Mighty One who fills heaven and earth
was journeying through towns and countries,
He who is mercy by nature was led to the land of the Gadarenes
that by His mercy He might deliver one tormented by evil spirits.

The filthy legion saw Him from a distance and began to lament:
"What have You to do with us, Son of God, who has come?
Suffer me now for You should not torment me before time.
The judgement will be at the end, leave me alone till the end."

Our Lord said, 'Get out of the man, evil spirit!'
It trembled at this word and staggering, left the man.
And he who was healed stood straight on giving praises,
speaking loudly he proclaimed the news everywhere.

Praise to Your Mercy, which lowered Yourself to us,
Good Lord, who did not leave Your Father,
and in Your love saved our race from Satan. Glory to You
and to the Father who sent You and to the Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God! Hear us, O God! Be gracious to the whole world.
And make the hearts of the children of men turn to repentance.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn 41:37-49 Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream.
Pr 31:10-31 The capable wife.
2P 1:1-11 God's call is to be a permanent experience.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... Show us Your ways, Lord...p.8

Mk 5:1-20 Jesus heals a man possessed by unclean spirit that enter the villagers' swineherd and throw themselves into the sea.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door...p. 8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God, to stand...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE
Lord of all, as we have risen from sleep to praise
the Name of Your Godhead, heaven and earth give glory to You,
O Wakeful One hidden from the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.

Lord of the Wakeful Ones and of human beings, it is You
that the legions of fire and spirit praise. Grant us also, Lord of all,
to sing with them praises befitting Your Godhead.

By fast and prayers let us please Christ the King, our Saviour, and ask of Him compassion and graciousness and the forgiveness of offences and the healing of all diseases that lie hidden in us.

Beloved, I heard the sound of the voice of the Wakeful Ones on high, how glorious and tremendous! And they cried out to the children of men, "Sinners, repent from all your guilty deeds that you may live."

Good Lord, my offences trouble me, terrify me. I tremble at all times. "Arise, sinner, says the Church, now is the time to have the record of your sins torn asunder and the graciousness of the Lord
will flow over you."

Glory to the Father, adoration to the Son and thanksgiving to the Spirit, one true God, Trinity exalted above all, to You be glory at all times.
Amen. Amen.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 40 (39) I waited, waited for the Lord...

RESPONSE
I waited for the Lord and He turned to me, He heard my voice.
He brought me up, out of the pit of groaning, out of mud and dirt.
He put a new song in my mouth, the praise of God.
Let many hear it that they may revere Him and put their trust in Him

The Lord gave me a talent, but I buried it in the earth.
Woe to me when He comes and demands it at my hands, the hands of a wicked and slothful servant who did not trade with his talent
and has not added anything to it.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Door of Mercy which is open to sinners...

As on the First Tuesday, Night Vigil, First Watch, p. 59

Hymn
It is by Your Cross, our Lord, that all things subsist.
The thief proclaimed it and he was given the Kingdom.
The martyrs confessed it and the Holy Spirit wove crowns for them.
We also magnify it, halleluia, halleluia.
Forgive us our offences and be gracious to all.

Lord, by the Cross You made the earth and the heavens
and Your rejoice in its glory when the Wakeful Ones take their delight in it.
In Your compassion reconcile the earth and its inhabitants.
Remove all rivalries from among the Churches and their people,
that we may offer our adorations to You with joy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to Your Goodness, Christ our God, whose graciousness
towards our race was so great, that by Your Cross
You delivered us from the Adversary and opened to us
the entrance to our former place, halleluia, halleluia.
Protect us, Lord, under the wings of Your Cross.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

God who reconciled heaven and earth and the whole creation
by Your own blood, reconcile Your Church, our Lord,
who worships You with the Cross, that by it at all times
she may overcome the Evil One and his powers, halleluia, halleluia,
that her children may be protected by it, and worship by its power.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us,
by Your Cross and Your Passion and Your Death.

Christ who were crucified on Golgotha,
make us to be crucified to sin.

By the wood of the living Cross the people went forth from Egypt.
When the sea saw the staff of Moses, it recognized Your sign.
The waters parted and the people walked through it on dry ground.

It is by Your Cross, our Lord, that the creation
and all that is in it subsists. By it also Satan is put to shame,
when his power over us is overthrown.

Blessed is the wood of the Cross on which the Son of God
was lifted up for the salvation of the whole creation,
and it made the nations to turn away from deceit and untruth.

Peoples and tribes, praise the King who rules by the Cross,
and in this season give honour and offer adorations to Him
and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 41 (40) Happy is the man who considers the poor and the weak...

RESPONSE
Our enemies speak wickedly to us.
Their hearts are full of malice and they spread it abroad.
Even the friend whom we trusted, who ate our bread,
has raised his heel against us.

But You, Lord, are gracious to us.
Make us rise to bless You and sing Your glory.
If You uphold us we shall be unharmed
and remain in Your presence for ever and ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Just One who bears with our iniquities and deals gently with us, the Wise Physician who lowers Himself to bind our wounds and to heal freely all our scars and sores. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We implore You, Lord of all, on account of Your great mercies to us, help us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, wholly dedicated to You and fit for Your acceptance, the true worship offered by body, mind and heart. Let us not conform to the pattern of the world, that our minds may be remade and our whole nature transformed and we may be able always to discern Your will, and to know what is good, pleasing to You and perfect. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Give me the shield of salvation.
The Church of believers whom You saved by Your Cross adores You, our Lord, and she sings praise and offers thanksgiving with the Harp of the Holy Spirit for Your Godhead which learned to us and descended and saved the family of Adam from deception and untruth.

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
By the prayer of the martyrs who made their confession by Your Cross, may all those who believe in You find protection under Your Cross, Lord, by Your Cross reconcile the whole creation and its inhabitants, O our Saviour! Glory to Your Cross.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Your Passion, Your Cross and Your Death which You endured for us are adorable, our Lord, and we praise You who saved us by them, and You opened for us the door of Paradise. All our praises remain unequal to the goodness with which You treat us.

Form age to age and for ever. Amen.

How narrow the gate! How hard is the way to the Kingdom!
He who wishes to walk that way must be fully determined.
He who slackens but a little will be drawn into a pathless desert,
and behold, he may lose his life of his own free will.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which You fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

Love prompts me to recount plainly
why the Saviour of the whole creation fasted.
The Mighty One whose glory fills heaven and earth,
fasted for forty days enduring pain in he flesh.

God saw His noble image worn out by sin,
and He sent His Son to save His image by fasting.
The Son descended and took a human body from a daughter of David,
and with it fasted and defeated the Enemy who fights against us.

Adam was tempted by the tree in Eden on account of greediness.
Our Saviour fasted that by His fast greediness might be reproved.
Because sin entered by eating, by abstinence
He defeated it and banished it from humankind.

Glory to the Father who fashioned Adam in the image of His Majesty.
Adoration to the Son who saved it by His sacrifice.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit, the cause of all that exists.
One Nature in three Persons. To Him be praise.

Blessed are You, Christ, who walked on earth
according to Your Dispensation, the Economy of salvation.
to make exiled Adam return to Paradise.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

God saw that Adam had broken the commandment.
The Evil One who was jealous of his condition defeated him,
by making him fall away from God's love.
But God's graciousness was moved for him
and He sent His own Son for Adam's salvation
who comforted the weak, took him by the hand and raised him up.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who is known in Trinity and is praised...
As on the First Tuesday, Night Vigil, Third Watch, p.64

Hymn

Adam sinned by eating the fruit of the tree
in he middle of the Garden and Death reigned over him.
Christ, the Fruit, ascended the Cross of light, the tree of life.
The household of Adam eats of it and returns to Paradise.
And behold, they cry out to Him unceasingly, "Glory to You, Lord."

If that tree could have spoken it would have said to Adam,
"Do not come near! Death is hidden in me, O Man, do not touch me!"
The Evil One tempts you to pluck and eat, do not listen to the words
of the Serpent, the Prince of the evil ones. Satan has laid snares
to trap you and cause your death, halleluia, halleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The trees wept on account of Adam when he left the Garden of Eden
for the accursed earth, but he said to them, "Remain in peace,
fair fruits and blessed trees, with God there is hope for me
that I shall come back to you, for He opens the door of His mercy
to the sinners who repent, halleluia, halleluia."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Lord of Adam said to him, "Do not grieve
because you have to leave Paradise and it is no more your inheritance.
Instead of the trees, you will have the assemblies of the Churches.
Instead of the fruits, you will have the propitiatory body.
Instead of the glory with which you were clothed among the trees,
the baptism of forgiveness is given to you and your children,
halleluia, halleluia."

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us,
by Your Cross and Your Passion and Your Death.

Christ who were crucified on Golgotha,
make us to be crucified to sin.

How glorious was the creation of the head of our race!
It was more glorious than that of the whole world. But how miserable
and wretched his end, when he was tested at the beginning!
His beginning was in Paradise, but he ended in darkness.
His beginning, in great glory, his end in great humiliation.

His beginning was among the trees, his end in the darkness of Sheol.
He had great love for his first dwelling and could not bear the other.
He was exceedingly frightened by it. At first he was given a high state.
But later he lay on the dust of the earth.

Beloved, how terrifying that such is the place where we have fallen!
What is it with our first habitation, shut up in a grave as we are now?
Instead of being moved by spiritual things, we are eaten into
by rot and worm, as bodies in the grave. May You be mindful
of our corruption, O Fair Child of Mary!

Glory to the Father who made us in His image and likeness.
Thanksgiving to the Son who endured death that we might have life.
Exaltation to the Holy Spirit by whom our being is renewed.
To Him be glory while we live, and thanksgiving when we will depart.

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside

Halleluia, halleluia... Be compassionate towards us...p.13, *followed by*

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

The Service of Repentance Happy the man whose offences...p.18

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and helpus.
Son of God, be gracious to the image
which You fashioned in Your own likeness.

And restore it to that fair beauty
which You gave it at the beginning.

Father of truth, see Your Son, the sacrifice of our reconciliation.
Receive Him who died for our sake, in atonement for us.
Accept this offering from our hands and be reconciled with us.
Do not remember our offences against Your Majesty.

Behold, Your blood shed on Golgotha by the wicked
makes supplication for us. Receive our petitions on account of it.
Great are our offences, but far greater is Your graciousness.
The weight of Your compassion outweighs the mountains.

You look at our sins! But look also at the sacrifice offered for us.
Far greater are the sacrifice and the offering than the sins.
Because we sinned, the nails and the spear pierced Your Beloved Son.
His sufferings are worthy to reconcile us with You. By them we live.

Glory to the Father who delivered up His Son for our salvation.
Adoration to the Son who died on the Cross to give life to us all.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who initiates and perfects the Mystery
of our salvation. Trinity exalted above all, be gracious to all!

Blessed are You, Christ, who walked on earth
according to Your Dispensation, the Economy of Salvation,
to make exiled Adam return to Paradise.

Intercessions and Prayer

As in the Second Half of the Great Fast p.24.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Fifth Wednesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms and Responses *From the Common Evening Prayers*, p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Compassionate One, full of graciousness, who rejoices in the penitents and calls them to repentance, that they may experience compassion and goodness in His presence. Him we beseech, at this time of evening...

Good and Gracious Father, long-suffering and full of compassion, who seek and find those who are lost and bind up the broken-hearted, Just Judge, just and gracious, our God, because our repentance is not sufficient and fails to incline Your compassion and graciousness towards us sinners, we offer to You the willing and redeeming sufferings of Your Only Son, endured in the flesh when He became man for our sake. We recall here Your words to sinners like us cut off from all hope, words holy and full of love for Man, full of good hope. You are He who said, "I desire not the death of the sinner, but that he may repent and live... He who turns to Me with sighs shall be saved... Even before he utters a word I will answer because I am near." You are He who said, "Confess your sins that you may be reconciled... I desire mercy, not sacrifice, knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." As we ponder over these words of Your well-doing for us and over Your love for Man, we find confidence in You, like in a place of life and salvation.

And now we beseech You, Lord, give us rest and grant the pardon of our offences. In our wickedness purify us and sanctify us. Deliver us from every sin of the flesh or the spirit, and teach us to do what is holy, in everything, with reverence for You. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to the Uniquely Beloved Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

There was a rich man who never thought of death.
He constructed large buildings and gathered great riches. He was
saying to himself, "I shall eat and enjoy all what I have in full.
But at night an angel descended and called him
and made him to give account to the Lord of the world, halleluia.
O Lord, spare us, that we may live.

Our Lord calls us to a spiritual marriage feast.
Come, put on good garments and virtuous deeds. May there be
no jealousy, no rivalry among us but spiritual communion.
It is the very poor who inherits the Kingdom
while the wicked is delivered up to Gehenna, halleluia.
O Lord, spare us, that we may live.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Be watchful and pray, says our Lord, When you set free
those who are in bondage, provisions are prepared for the journey,
for it is not known when the Lord of the house will come.
Take oil with you for your lamps and go to meet Him, that seeing you
the Bridegroom may rejoice and open His door to you, halleluia,
and you may take your delight with Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Simon Peter and John went up to the temple to pray.
At the gate a lame beggar asked alms from them.
Simon looked at him and said, "We have no gold or silver to give you.
We give you the gift which our Lord gave us, halleluia.
In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth stand on your feet and walk.'
And he walked right up.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Our Lord, as You are delighted by breathing the sweet smell
which is spreading with the burning of this incense
make to grow this little flock here gathered in Your Name
through Your infinite graciousness.

Make it breathe for us all, the scent of life and salvation
and give us earnestness with joy in all good works,
with the deliverance from all unworthy passions,
our Lord and our God, Great Lover of Humankind

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid,
hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Watchers and the angels,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

The Son of God appeared in the creation like the day.
He scattered the darkness that reigned in the whole creation.
The Sun of Righteousness shone forth up to its utmost bounds
and drove away from it all the shadows of vanity.

He went forth as the Healer of the wounds inflicted by the Adversary,
and by His graciousness He drove away the sickness of humankind.
He healed the sick, relieved all pain and cleansed the lepers.
He made the bent to straighten up, the blind to see and the deaf to hear.

He called sinners and made the publicans to be justified. Those who
were lost He made to return. He visited those who were far off,
enlightened those who were near and gave life to the dead.
He bedewed the earth with compassion and filled it with hope.
And He made peace between the earthly ones and the heavenly ones.

We offer praise to the Trinity at all times, Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
He sanctifies the soul and purifies the bodies of the sons of men.
He visits the wounded and comforts all those who are afflicted.
Let us offer fitting praises to the Godhead.

Hear us, O God! Hear us, O God! Be gracious to the whole world.

And make the hearts of the children of men turn to repentance.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn	41:50-57	Joseph in full power all over Egypt.
	42 : 1-7	First meeting between Joseph and his brothers.
Qo (Eccle)	1: 12-18	The transient nature of all the good things
	2 : 1-11	of this life.
2 P	1: 12-21	The apostles eye witnesses of Christ's glory.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... show us Your ways, Lord...p.8
Lk 4:31-41 Jesus the healer of all ills.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Fourth Wednesday of the Great Fast, p.203

Fifth Thursday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the Fourth Thursday, p. 212, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Teacher of purity and Giver of holiness, the Instructor in continence and Guide to blessedness who by fasting made glorious the just of the first ages, who enriched the holy prophets by revelations and made the great ascetics to shine and exalted them to heaven. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Lord our God, Jesus Christ, Word of God the Father. You became man for the sake of our guilty race, out of Your great and ineffable love for humankind, that You might redeem it and set it free from the yoke of slavery of the Enemy to whom it became subjected through the eating of the fruit in Paradise. When You willed to deliver the human family from it, You took upon Yourself to fast of Your own will, that You might give us who are weak and sinful an invincible armour by which we might conquer the Enemy of our race.

And now, Lord, weak and sinful as we are, we beseech Your Graciousness that You will make us experience Your love and compassion by giving us the pardon of offences and forgiveness of sins. Endow us with strength and fortitude against all the snares and the deceit of the Enemy, that while we are strengthened by Your victorious power, we may cast him down and overthrow him by this holy fast, and trample his power underfoot, and be pleasing to You by patience and continence. And we will praise You and exalt You gloriously with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Make us worthy, Lord God,
that we may offer unceasingly to Your Sovereignty
the acceptable incense of pure prayers.

And let the sweet scent of this Holy Season
breathe forth before Your Majesty, as we offer to You
the fruits of virtuous living, to Your Honour,
and the sacrifice of sincere thanksgiving to Your Godhead.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn.	42:8-24	Joseph's brothers come to him to buy corn.
Qo.	12:1-8	Remember Your Creator when you are still young.
2P	2:1-12	False prophets and teachers.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia ... Show us Your Ways, Lord...p.8

Mt	9:1-8	Jesus heals the paralytic.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Fourth Thursday of the Great Fast, p.215

Fifth Friday of the Great Fast Evening Prayer and Night Vigil

Everything as on the Fourth Friday, p. 224, except the Eucharistic Prayer, the Prayer for the Burning of Incense and the Proclamation of the Word of God, all at the Evening Prayer, as given here below.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the One Gracious God who takes pleasure in a humble heart rather than in sacrifices and receives in His presence a humble and repentant spirit rather than whole burnt-offerings. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Glory to You, Creator of the worlds, Maker of the evening, Lord and Consummator of all times and seasons. Do You, Lord, have compassion on us at this time of evening when the brightness of the day comes to an end and the light of the sun goes into hiding in the lower regions. Now as the darkness is spreading, the night sends out the shining stars passing on praise one to another in silence, and as the sun is taking to flight, the moon like a giant valiantly runs its course, and Aldebaran joyously moves from one end of he firmament to the other.

Recalling all this we beseech You, Lord, Great Lover of Humankind that this evening may be to us a harbour of peace and a house of refuge and rest. Let not our minds be obscured with the darkness of the night

and make the Sun of Righteousness rise for us. With the withdrawal of the sun's rays let Your grace shine upon us. And with the great David we will cry and say, "Receive the offerings of our hands like the evening oblation," Let our prayers and supplications find their way to Your holy place, at this time of evening. Who will save us, Lord, from the eventide of sin and from darkness? Enlighten our senses with Your light, that we may offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
By You was the light created,
O Christ, the true light, and at Your command
the sun of the day has fled, O Sun of Righteousness.

Receive now this incense as our evening offering
and be pleased by our prayers as by an acceptable sacrifice.
Set watches over our mouths and our lips,
that we may not speak ill or indulge in vain talk, and may Your Spirit come to our help as we do not know how to pray. May He always prompt us to praise You, to thank You and to adore You.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gn.	45: 1-15	Joseph tells his brothers who he is.
Is	1:10	Hear the word of the Lord. Seek Justice.
	16-20	Do good to the oppressed.
2 P	2:17-22	False teachers promise freedom but they themselves are slaves.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... Show us Your ways, Lord...p.8
Mk 6:45-56 Jesus walks on the water... He heals the sick.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Fourth Friday of the Great Fast, p.228

Fifth Saturday of the Great Fast
All Saints and the Monastic Fathers
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord our God, that with true faith and sincere love we may celebrate the day of the remembrance of our fathers in the monastic life. For the sake of Your love they renounced the world of evil and adorned the Churches with their apostolic teachings and their noble way of life.By walking their footsteps may we follow You and please You like them. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 19 (18) The heavens proclaim the glory of God...

RESPONSE

In gladness and joy we are assembled to commemorate the saints,
Aphrahat the sage of Persia with Ephrem and Isaac, the Syrians,
and our fathers Anthony and Pachomios of Egypt,
Basil the Great, Simeon the Pillar Saint, Benedict of Norcia,
our Cistercian fathers and all our fathers in the monastic life.
Blessed are You and praise to You, O God of our fathers.

Lord, they were thirsty and You made them to drink.
They drank deep from the fountain of Your wisdom.
You set them up as ministers of Your mysteries in the Churches,
and they taught us by word and by deed. You made to flow for us,
from their hearts streams of life-giving water.
Blessed are You, and praise to You, O God of our fathers.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE
By the shining light of their knowledge, O Lord,
dispel all darkness when it comes on us,
that with enlightened understanding
we may serve you in wholly new purity.

They tasted heaven's gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
They experienced the spiritual energies of the life to come.
Grant us also to know from experience the new life in You,
when the heart is filled with that joy that surpasses all joys.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Eternal Being who came to be born of a virgin mother for our salvation, to Him who by His birth set the seal on the oracles of the prophets, and by His appearance explained the parables of the seers, and by the proclamation of His Gospel led the apostles to perfection, and made the martyrs victorious by the sufferings they bore for Him, and supported the confessors in the struggle they endured for His love. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord, when we bring before Your love of humankind the remembrance of the glorious and heroic deeds, exalted above all, of those who from the first Adam, head of our race, until our days, have been pleasing to You, who were blameless and practised true religion, becoming Your friends and who were found worthy of belonging to Your family, we commemorate the holy fathers of the first ages who kept Your law without having been instructed in it, while living among people who had no faith.

We remember also the assembly of the prophets, teachers of Your truth, who saw You with the eye of the spirit and prophesied the truth concerning You. They had a longing to behold the day of Your birth but did not live to see it.

We remember further the company of the apostles who were of Your own house, the evangelists who proclaimed the marvels and miracles

and mighty deeds of Your manifestation in the flesh, the holy martyrs whom You loved, who confessed You while enduring sufferings and afflictions; with them we present to You as in cups of gold the precious blood which flowed from their necks.

We recall also to You, Lord, the shepherds and the fathers and teachers of Your Holy Church, who from You, the Fountain of Life, made to flow delightful streams to quench our thirst.

We remember also those who lived on the mountains or in caves, and set out to make their way to the Kingdom through the narrow gate.

We recall very specially her, who is above all in holiness and was found worthy of all blessings, holy and of the greatest beauty, the pure, the all glorious Mary, Mother of God.

We thus lay before You, Lord, the supplications and prayers which the Virgin Mary who bore You, and all those about whom we have been told, Your servants and friends, presented to You for us. May the *Eucharist* which is offered in Your Church on the day of their commemorations be well-pleasing to You. May they be for the remission of the sins of all and for the sanctification of all. May Your precious blood with which our lips are smeared keep sin away from us, better than the blood of the lamb by which Moses kept the Destroyer away from the people. Give rest also to those who went to sleep before, in the true faith, and make them to dwell in tabernacles of light, in the dwellings of Abraham. Make them sit at table with all Your saints, that we may offer to You, Christ God, praise and honour, from all, by all and for the sake of all, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

Hymn

Beloved, let us treasure God's call to us above everything
and follow Jesus in the desert and on the mountain for prayer.
Every one, is expected to pray but the monk seeks unceasing prayer,
prayer with silence, in the secret of the heart, with discipline.
Prayer fills in his heart the space created by the great renunciation
and by the surrender of all cares and concerns to Him.

It is when the Spirit comes to dwell in the heart
that we do not cease any more praying,
because the Spirit never ceases to pray.
Those who live as the Spirit moves them,
the Spirit becomes life for them. They are made free,
liberated, in the freedom of God's children.

Whether we are awake or whether we sleep,
the Spirit within us, keeps prayer active in the heart.
Whether we eat or drink, whether we work or rest,
the memory of Jesus is taken up and carried by our breathing.
Our heart breathes in and out the sweet scent of His name.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Let us spare no effort to preserve the bond of peace,
and to strengthen that unity of mind and heart
which the Holy Spirit gives to the body of Christ.
Let us live together in sincerity and simplicity of heart
and the favour of God, through continuance in prayer.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Let us have in our mind the Gospel as our treasure,
and in our hearts the truth and life which is our Lord.
When we turn to the Lord with our whole being
the Spirit reveals His presence in an ineffable experience.
When we do not cease invoking the Name of Jesus, the fire of His love
penetrates and permeates even the external senses of the heart.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Treasure of Glorious Fragrance
who when You were sent into the world,
from the land of fair spices were placed wondrously,
as a pure incense in the womb of the Virgin,
Your sweet scent gave pleasure to all parts of the world.

Give pleasure now also, Lord, to Your devotees
by the sweet scent of Your holy love,
and send the refreshment of your Spirit
to all those who are sick or oppressed or weary.
Give rest to all who have slept in Your hope in true faith.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May Your prayers be with us, O blessed fathers,
may your prayers always be with us,
and strengthen us, your followers, in the spiritual quest.

By your prayers, O glorious fathers,
may the Lord dispel the darkness of this world
and enlighten all men who seek Him.

Your lives are full of victories on the path of perfection,
illustrious fathers, living images of the Gospel,
Sweet sources of blessed waters that flow over the earth,
which nourish the chosen forest of our faith.

New wine whose colour and scent come from Golgotha
and quenches the thirst of men and women who sing praise.
Your teachings enrapture the people who receive them,
and the Churches resound with your spiritual songs.

True workmen, you accepted your task and set to it yourselves
and with God's grace you worked to the end.
True masters, you practised before teaching
and so you became for your disciples models for their inspiration.

Glory to the Father who filled you with His wisdom.
Adoration to the Son who made to spring from you
streams to water His vineyard and to yield a rich harvest.
Praise to the Spirit who through you enlightens the world.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
You clothe Your saints with Your righteousness,
O Lord, Your just ones with Your glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
And from their hearts flow streams of living water

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
You clothe Your saints with Your righteousness,
O Lord, Your just ones with Your glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
And from their hearts flow streams of living water
that rejoice Your people, O God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 15: 1-8 Jesus the real wine.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us pay attention to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all."

Christ our God who sowed seeds of Your word in the hearts of all peoples and made Your law known to them even before You gave it to Your chosen people, open our eyes that we may recognize the presence of Your Holy Spirit in them and the tokens of holiness which are His fruit in the hearts of all true seekers of God, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who choose Your saints in purity and by Your grace give increase to the humble, You revealed to us her who was pure among women as a second heaven, as You dwelt in her, by her prayers, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Make us, Lord, imitators of their ardent faith and their great love, in imitation of You who offered Your life out of love for the world, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE
It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and do not cease to praise You,
make us also, earthly ones, worthy to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is Christ who bestowed on you the charism of teaching
and made the Churches to shine with the loftiness of your life.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is Christ who strengthened you in the unseen warfare
and gave you power to put the Enemy to shame.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all. O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who is One in Three and the Three are One, the Father
and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be praise and on us His graciousness.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who walks not on the path of the wicked...

RESPONSE
Blessed is the man whose delight is in the Lord.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water.
Its leaves never fade and it gives fruit in due season.
The Lord Himself watches over his ways.

The Churches rejoice and exult
over the fathers whom Christ has raised
to feed them with their words and serve them with their deeds
and to enrich them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Lord of lords who chose His saints before the foundation of the world and poured into their hearts the fire of His love. He enlightened them with the wisdom that passes all understanding. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God who with the wine of Your divine love quench the thirst of those who love You, and by Your grace make them drunk with a divine drunkenness and enrich then with your lofty gifts and make them stand before you as pillars of light to give light to all that is beneath the heavens, You gloriously brought our monastic fathers to

the heights of sanctity. We give thanks to You because today You have come to us and You bring us great joy in their commemoration. Their teachings and their examples are wonderful illustrations of Your own words and deeds. By them our hearts weighed down by trials and weariness are comforted, our lives are seen in a new light and our faith is strengthened.

Therefore we beg and beseech You that You may always prompt us to drink deep from these fountains of the monastic charisn. Above all, quicken in us that hope of the things to come so vigorous in the lives of our fathers. Grant us to be all one in thought and feeling, filled with brotherly affection, gentle and humble-minded, avoiding all negligence, in the remembrance of the fruits that You expect from us, so that none may be deprived of that joyful expectation of Your Kingdom or found unfaithful to his free commitment to You in this holy community, holy on account of our fellowship with You, Jesus, and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Anthony gave no thought to the passing of time.
Day by day as though he were a beginner in the ascetic life,
he made greater effort towards perfection.
Daily he repeated to himself: "Forget what is behind,
and press forward to reach out to that which lies ahead".

This was too much for the Enemy to bear, who feared
that Anthony would fill the desert with asceticism.
Calling other demons they lashed on him so gruesomely,
that Anthony lay on the ground speechless from pain.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord was not forgetful of His disciple's struggle.
As Anthony looked up from the ground he could see
the roof opening and a beam of light coming down to him.
Suddenly all the demons were gone,
and all at once the pains in his body ceased.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Perceiving that help had come from Jesus, he asked Him:
"Why did You not appear at the beginning?"
"I was there, Anthony," He said, "but I watched you in action.
Because you held out, I will ever be Your helper."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 43 (42) Defend me, O God, and plead my cause...

RESPONSE
Send forth Your light and Your truth to guide us
and lead us to Your holy mountain, the place where You dwell.
Then we shall be with You, O God of our joy,
and praise You on the harp, O God of our delight.

Blessed are you, divine teachers, your mouths were like harps
and the Holy Spirit, through your lips, sang sweet songs
which are the delight of the Churches
who rejoice in your commemoration.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. — We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... — Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who gives wisdom to the renowned fathers by whose wisdom their disciples find their way to Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Blessed are you, glorious fathers who gave to drink of the waters of life to all believers by your teachings and your gospel-like life. The prophets rejoice in you because you interpreted their mysteries. The apostles exult in you because you built Churches on their foundations. The martyrs are glad on account of you because you imitated them in the spiritual combat and confessed Christ by your lives.

Be now intercessors on our behalf before the Holy Trinity by whom you were made wise, that there may be bestowed on us by your prayer, discernment and wisdom for spiritual attainment. Pray that peace and tranquility and justice with love may prevail all over the world, that we may always rejoice and exult offering praises to the Father and to the Son Christ, who crowned you, and to the Holy Spirit who gave you wisdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

As Anthony was teaching, all his disciples rejoiced.
While in some the love of God increased,
in others negligence was discarded and conceit was checked.
All admired in him the charism of discernment of the spirits.

Their cells on the hills were like tents with divine choirs.
They sang psalms and prayed and laboured to give alms,
preserving love and harmony among themselves.
And all of them rejoiced in the hope of the things to come.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

It was like seeing a land apart, a land of piety and justice.
There was neither wrong-doer nor sufferer of wrong,
but a multitude of ascetics, studying and fasting,
all with one set purpose, the perfection of love.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Seeing their solitary cells and the monk's earnestness
all those who came to visit them were comforted and would say:
"How fair your dwellings! Like a garden beside a river.
like rows of palms and cedars planted by the Lord."

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayers of those who dedicated their life to You.

By the prayers of those who loved You so much,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

Happy are you, fountains of sweet waters.
Holy fathers, from you flow life-giving springs
which at all times quench the thirst of your disciples
and gladden the Churches and their people.

Noble athletes, you completed the race,
chaste in body and free from all stains and passions,
with minds sober and hearts full of love,
pure and exalted in your life of lofty asceticism.

Harps of the Spirit calling men to conversion,
flutes echoing hymns of sweet doctrine,
lamps driving away all darkness from our minds,
fountains from which flow secret streams of life.

Friends of God, men of the Spirit, brothers to all men,
your crown is fragrant and sweet the scent of your life.
Your feast is glorious, bountiful the praise offered to you,
your bliss is full of light. Blessed is He who chose you.

Glory to the Father who chose you from the beginning.
Adoration to the Son who magnifies your remembrance.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who crowns you with glory.
And on us graciousness.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Sixth Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of the Blind

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer

Wondrous are You, Lord, Mighty and Gracious, who by the saliva of Your mouth and the dust of the earth, filled with light eyes that were naturally deprived of it. Lord God, drive from us the gloom and the darkness of sin. And fill us also with the light of Your knowledge and with Your divine gifts, that we may praise You in holiness, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, my soul, O Lord, my God...

RESPONSE

Lord God, You are great indeed,
clothed in majesty and splendour.
You set the earth on its foundations
to stand firm from age to age.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys
and their water flows between the hills.
They give drink to all the beasts of the field,
and living beings quench their thirst.

Psalm 51 (50) Be gracious to us, O God, because of Your goodness...

RESPONSE
Let us hear the sounds of joy and gladness.
Let the bones dance which You have broken.
Turn away Your face from our sins and blot out all our guilt.

Revive in us the joy of Your salvation
and give us a spirit of fervour to uphold us,
that we may find You who are the way, the truth and the life.

You gave the two blind men to have perfect sight,
and joyfully they cried, "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation."

You who create and renovate. You renovated the eyes of the man
born blind which were not at first capable of sight,
and he cried out, "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation."

Evening Psalms We call upon You. Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE
The blind man filled with faith besought Christ, "Lord, those
who have sight say that the morning is fair and the light attractive.
Give light to my eyes and I will thank Your goodness,
and praise Your compassion, who are the Lover of Humankind."

The Fashioner of our nature spat on the earth and made mud
and applied it on the eyes of the blind man and they opened.
The man saw the light and went to announce to all the world,
"Behold the Heavenly Physician. To Him be praise
for by His coming He gives life to our race of mortals."

Our Lord gave a teaching full of life to the scribe,
who having heard Him speak wisely said to Him,
"What must I do? I ask You, Lord,
that You may give me the eternal life you promise."

A man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho fell into the hands-
of thieves, who struck him violently. A priest passed by but did not
help him. A Levite also and he did not give him assistance.
But You, Lord, with wine and oil tended him and bound up his wounds.

Glory to You, the Beloved, Word of the Father who in Your love
came on earth and clothed Yourself in the flesh of our humanity.
In Your graciousness You tended and healed the sores of our wounds.
May Your Father be glorified who sent You for our salvation.
And to Your Holy Spirit adoration from all.

The Child of the Hidden Father
descended from the heights to save the sons of men
Praise to Him who sent Him.

Praise to Him who ate in the house of Abraham
and took His place at table in the house of Simon
and pardoned the sinful woman.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Rich One who came among the poor and filled them, and who mingled with the defiled and cleansed them, to that Ocean of Graciousness who had compassion on our race and saved it. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

When we consider with wonder Your Divine Economy, O Word of God, who could refrain from praising Your glorious Mysteries, O Lord? Indeed our mouths are too small to praise You as we ought and our tongues too weak to exalt You as You deserve. Your Name is beyond all consideration and Your coming cannot be comprehended or explained. At the marriage feast the waters saw You and were changed into wine as a sign of the new life You raise in us by the second birth. The sea recognized You as its Creator and made a way for You through its waves. Soon it lay down that Your feet might touch it and Your footprints bless it. The lepers saw You and were cleansed. Diseases fled at Your approach. Your voice descended to Sheol and called Your sheep by their name. With mud You opened the eyes of the blind to show that it is You who fashioned the first man from the earth. You sent him to Siloe to make known an image of baptism, the true light which is given us. You sanctified the publicans. You justified the sinners. You healed the sick and gave back health to those who were diseased.

Therefore, Lord, Your assembly beseeches You who will that every man should live, to make whole sinners, granting healing and health to all who knock at the great door of Your graciousness. And may we also find in You, graciousness, compassion and help, and the pardon and forgiveness of sins, here and in the world to come, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On the way a blind man filled with faith besought our Saviour,
"Lord, have pity on me, I came out of the womb deprived of light.
Grant me to see You that I may experience Your goodness,
and joyfully I will say, glory to You, Lord, who came
and made windows in the house Your Father had built.
Halleluia, halleluia, You are the Lord who make all things new."

Some told the blind man, "It is not Jesus who cured you.
You washed in the water of Siloe and then you received your sight."
But the blind man replied, "Well, if it is Siloe, there are
other blind men like me in Jerusalem, let them go and wash there.
If it is not Jesus who cured me they will gain their sight,
halleluia, halleluia, now and for ever."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As Jesus the Light passed by the crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar,
heard His voice and asked light for his eyes from the Son of David.
"Give me light, You who enlighten the creation.
Pour out Your graciousness on me and on the whole World,
that all those who are wandering may be enlightened."
The Compassionate One called him and gave him light,
and so the blind man believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Bartimaeus lifted up his voice and said to Jesus, "Son of David,
be gracious to me, give light to my eyes that I may take delight
in the air, and thank You for Your goodness."
And Jesus made mud from His saliva and rubbed it on his eyes.
And his eyes opened and he saw, and he sang praise to God.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Receive, Lord, this incense which we offer to You,
and as You gave light to the man who was blind from birth,
give light also to the eyes of our minds.

And make us choice vessels for the dwelling of Your Godhead,
and grant that all those who followed You in Your Passover
may rejoice in Your Kingdom and we with them will offer You
praise and thanksgiving.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who in Your Economy came and tread our earth
healing the sick, purifying the lepers and raising the dead,
heal our diseases and bind our wounds and be gracious to all.

Like a Treasure hidden in the crowd You shed forth Your riches.
A Guest at the wedding feast, You changed water into wine.
You opened the eyes of Bartimaeus the blind and he saw the light.
You granted the cure of the woman who suffered from severe bleeding
and You confirmed that she had stolen it from You by her faith.

Light and Brightness, Word of the Father, be gracious
to the weakness which plunges us into darkness and humiliation.
It is by You, O Architect, that the house is built, open then
windows in it, which are lacking, that it may be completed.

By His word which made all things, our Saviour gave health.
The people praised Him, but priests conceived hatred against Him.
How could they want the blind to forget Him who opened their eyes?
Truly, they had closed their own eyes to the Light.

Glory to the Father who sent His Son to dispel the darkness.
Adoration to the Son who enlightened those who had gone astray.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who enlightens the creation by His rays.
Blessed be the Light which gives light to all. To Him be praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
How many are Your works O Lord, our God!
Your wonders and Your designs encompass all.
And there is none like You, Jesus.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Your power is revealed, we have seen God's glory.
He who has seen You has seen the Father.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 9 : 32-35 Jesus heals all diseases...
Mk 10 : 46-52 Jesus heals the blind beggar.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all."

Christ our God who by Your birth in the flesh made to dawn the Divine Light on our planet earth and in the whole creation, make the light of Your life fill Your Churches with the new light, that they may spread the light of Your truth and the fire of Your love throughout the world, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who converse unceasingly with Your people through the living voice of Your Gospel proclaimed in the Churches, move them constantly towards the fullness of the truth, until Your words reach their fulfilment in them, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God who when Your time approached set Your face resolutely towards Jerusalem without turning away from suffering, prompt us and all those who wield power in this world and in the Churches, to work with You for the removal of evil, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N.. Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church,

our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and that harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this, our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, grant us by a renewed faith in You and by the testimony of good works, to prepare ourselves for the Passover celebrations, Your Blessed Passion, Death and Resurrection by which the new creation takes place and we all attain to fullness of being, the fullness of God Himself, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Festal Trisagion

Holy God, the hallowing of those who call You Holy
is not able to reach out to Your Holiness.

Mighty God, all the armies of the Adversary are weak
in the face of Your might.

Immortal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one true God,
be gracious to the whole creation.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you serve...p.9

RESPONSE
With those from on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we give thanks to You and we praise You, as we say,
"Glory to You, Creator of the universe."

With the Winged Creatures we bless You, and with the Fiery Ones
we hallow Your Name, O Lover of the human race, and with the angels
we bow to You in adoration. Glory to You, Creator of the universe.

In His compassion Christ our King made to open the right hand
that was withered, and by this He revealed His power.
Glory to Him who heals our diseases and makes us whole.

He opened the ears of the deaf, making Himself clearly known to us
as the Creator, and as He multiplied the bread He manifested Himself
to us as the Preserver. Glory to Him, the Creator of the universe.

The Fountain of Life was moved from on high to be sent
to the earthly ones to remove the bitterness caused by the Evil One,
and to quench our thirst by giving us His saving blood.

By defeating the wicked He manifested Himself as the just judge.
By calling the nations He revealed Himself as the Compassionate One
Glory to Him, the Creator of the universe.

It is good to offer praise, glory, adoration and the highest honour,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, One true God.
To Him be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 119 (118):161-168 Though corrupt men oppress me...

RESPONSE
Though corrupt men persecute me without cause
my heart is filled with reverence, from Your word.
I rejoiced at Your word,
because Your utterance is for me a great boon.

In Your graciousness You rose and descended.
In Your love You joined with us.
The Good One draws the sick unto Himself,
that they may be made whole.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His love and care for humankind descended...
As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, Night Vigil, First Watch, p.35

Hymn

By Your word, Jesus, You made the paralytic stand and walk
By the touch of Your garment You gave healing to the sick.
Heal us all who are sick and weighed down by our sins
that we may declare Your goodness and sing Your praise.

As Jesus was walking along a road two blind men followed Him.
And they besought Him shouting, "Son of David, have pity on us!"
As Jesus touched their eyes their sight was restored,
and they went spreading the news all over the country.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are You who in Your graciousness descended to heal our wounds:
the lepers who met You were cleansed, the blind saw the light.
Sinners who turned to You were reconciled with God.
Blessed are You who came and saved us in Your goodness.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Jesus said to Simon the Pharisee before all the guests at table,
"I came to Your house and you gave me no water for my feet,
but this woman, a harlot, washed them with the flow of her tears.
I tell you, her many sins are forgiven, for she has great love."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Psalm 119 (118) : 169-176 Let my praise enter...

RESPONSE
Let our praise reach into Your presence, Lord, that we may live!
And give us insight, according to Your word.
May our lips pour forth praises worthy of You,
for Your law is our delight.

We praise You, Lord, who walked on earth to relieve our sufferings.
You gave us Your body, the food of salvation,
and You mixed for us the chalice of Your blood,
that by it our debts may be remitted, the cup of immortality!

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Heavenly Physician who in His goodness visited...
As on the First Sunday of the Great Fast, Night Vigil, Second Watch p.37

Hymn *Madrosho*

Our Lord was passing through the great portico, that of Solomon. He saw a paralytic who had been sick for a long time. He knew it and said "Nothing prevents you to be healed like your companions." Blessed is He who said to him, "Rise you are healed!"

Our Lord is a fountain full of life for the thirsty earth.
He rejoices it with the waters of life: the sick are healed,
the devils are cast out, the dead are raised to life.
Blessed is He who sent Him for the salvation of our race.

The Hidden Light sent the Radiance of His Light
to dispel the darkness that had spread over the earth.
He pours His rays over the creation and He opens the eyes of the blind.
To Him who gives us the light of life, we all cry, "Glory to You."

"Son of David, have pity on me, I am blind. I do not see.
Those who see tell me that the world is fair and truly beautiful to see.
Let me receive light from You, the True Light that enlightens all men."
Jesus gave light to the blind, revealing Himself as the Son of God.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us, Son who heal the afflicted.

In Your compassion, heal our diseases and deliver us from all evil.

You who made Your peace to dwell in the sea so that quiet returned to the disciples, give peace to Your Churches by Your crucifixion and remove from them disunity and rivalries, that all may work for You as they should and the whole body grow and build itself in love.

You who on the Cross poured Your compassion on the thief,
make Your Churches to be reconciled, by coming closer to You.
Like Your Apostle, may they glory in nothing but in the Cross,
and follow You who came to give Your life for the world.

Your tender love for Your Church, O our Saviour, led You to the Cross.
Gather her wandering children and let no son of her womb be led astray
You who out of goodness inclined Yourself to our wickedness, have
mercy on Your Church who was lifted up on the arms of Your Cross,
that she may offer You a new praise and Your Name be glorified in her.

Glory to You from Your people whom You exalted by Your crucifixion.
Thanksgiving to Your Father who sent You.
And to the Holy Spirit exaltation.
And on us graciousness and compassion, at all times. Amen. Amen.

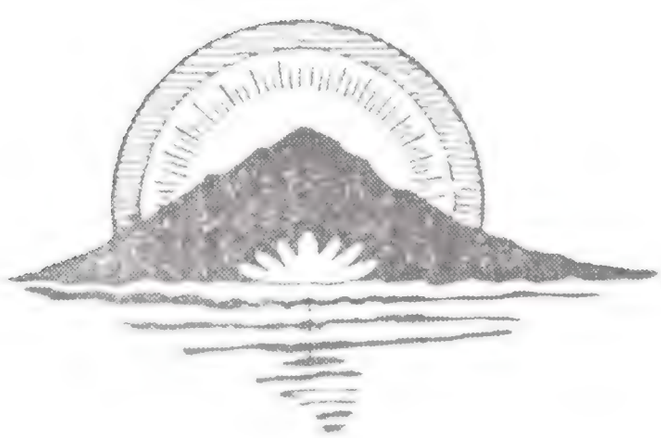
Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them we offer...p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



Monday in the Week of Hosanna
The Sixth Monday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms with their Responses *All from the Common Evening Prayers,* p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the King who has His chariot in heaven and He used a contemptible mount for His manifestation, riding upon a colt, the foal of an ass, of His own will. To the Holy One to whom the holy Fiery Ones sing hymns of praise for His glory, and who is lauded by the young and the children according to His good pleasure. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God who in heaven are carried on the chariot of the Winged Creatures with awe, on earth in the body, You were mounted upon a dumb beast for our salvation and by this You signified the call of the nations which had not been set free. By Your entry into Jerusalem You set the seal on the oracles of the prophets who like trumpets proclaimed Your saving coming in all the inhabited world, when one of them said that the sceptre should not depart from Judah, until He should come, to whom the Kingdom belongs. Another announced, "Rejoice and exult, Daughter of

Jerusalem, for Your King comes to you, meek and riding upon an ass and a colt, the foal of an ass." One of them sang that from the mouth of young men and boys, praise shall be established for the Lord. Another said, "He shall bind His colt to the vine and His foal to the young vine." One announced, "How fair on the mountain are the feet of those who proclaim peace and make righteousness known." Another proclaimed, "Behold, the Lord comes, Daughter of Jerusalem. Go forth to meet Him with joy." When at Your entry into Jerusalem upon an ass these prophecies were fulfilled, the heavenly powers marvelled at Your humility for our sake.

Therefore we beseech You, on this day of Your entry into Jerusalem, let us come into Your presence with the glorious garments of virtue and the comely branches of faith. And for all Your graces and blessings upon us, we will offer praise and honour and exaltation, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Listen, said Jesus to His disciples, I am going to Jerusalem to fulfil
all that has been written by the prophets from the beginning.
I shall not forsake Adam, for he is the head of all races.
The Evil One drove him out of Paradise on account of envy.
But it is with love that I shall make him return to his inheritance.
Halleluia. Glory in highest heaven.

As our Saviour was journeying towards Jerusalem blessings and healings flowed from His mouth and His hands to the people. In the house of Zacchaeus He gave the new life to the rich man. In the house of Simon He forgave the sins of the woman who loved much. At Bethany He called Lazarus out of the tomb after four days and brought him back to life. Adam rejoiced as God had come to visit His creation. Halleluia. Glory in highest heaven.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As our Saviour came down from the Mount of Olives.
He called two of His disciples and said to them,
"Go to the village there ahead of us
and bring the donkey tied up to the vine.

If some one asks you why you are untying it,
tell him that the Master needs it to ride upon it and enter Jerusalem."
Halleluia. Glory in highest heaven.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Church cries out, "Here is the Heavenly Bridegroom,
son of David and Lord of David, riding on a poor donkey."
The company of the prophets goes before Him,
and the group of the apostles comes after Him,
while the children cry and say with shouts of joy, "Hosanna!
Glory to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes to save us."
Halleluia. Glory in highest heaven

Prayer for the Burning of incense

O Adorable One, You are worshipped and praised and exalted
by Your servants and by all creatures, and magnificently
by those who celebrate You unceasingly in the Church of the Firstborn,
whose names are written in heaven and in the Jerusalem above.

Grant us that we may keep festival with them and celebrate You
with the praises and adorations and exaltations which are due to You.

Hymn

Blessed are the children who were worthy to see Christ
entering Jerusalem, riding on a donkey.
Happy are you, children, who were worthy to praise His Majesty
with olive branches and to cry out, "Hosanna!
Glory in highest heaven. Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

A great wonder and marvel certainly it is, when the fire
is put in a vessel full of water and it is not extinguished.
Today the Flame sits on a little donkey which is not scorched.
A great wonder indeed which cannot be searched into.
Hosanna in highest heaven. Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

A great wonder and marvel certainly it is, when our Saviour
leading the disciples enters Jerusalem riding upon a donkey.
The children who see it wave olive branches and cry out,
"Hosanna in highest heaven. Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

We acclaim Emmanuel and worship Him who lowered Himself
and in His humility rode on a donkey.
A large crowd of people came out to meet Him.
They waved olive branches and acclaimed Him,
the Son of God who became man, "Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, cry out the heavenly ones.
Holy is the Lord who enters Jerusalem riding upon a donkey.

Sing to Him. Sing to Him. Sing to Him.
the Son of God, who is worthy of all praise.
How could we ever cease from singing His glory?

Our Lord came to this world walking in humility.
Prompted by His love for all creatures, He became flesh
and did not use the adorned mounts of the mighty.
He rode on an ass to visit His people in humility.

The children of the Hebrews saw the humility of the great King
and acclaimed Him with hosannas and by waving branches.
The young proclaimed their love boldly and loudly.
This irritated the old, but the young did not cease
to sing the praise of Him who humbled Himself.

Some of the old would not praise the King who had come to the earth.
but the children moved by wonder praised Him with loud hosannas.
"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,"
cried out the young ones, and the creation echoed
the praise of the King who was coming with great glory.

Glory to the Father who out of graciousness let His Son to be humbled.
Adoration to the Son who in His humility chose a donkey for His mount
Thanksgiving to the Spirit by whom the young men and the children
were moved to offer praise to Christ the King with their hosannas.

The prophets go before Him. The apostles come after Him,
and the young men and the children acclaim Him with their hosannas.
Zechariah prophesied, Rejoice, people of Jerusalem,
your King comes to you.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Hallaluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The words of the Lord can be trusted.
They are more genuine than silver refined in the furnace.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Here comes our King riding on a poor donkey.
He who comes in the name of the Lord
comes to us in simplicity and with gentleness.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 18:31-34 Jesus speaks a third time about His Death and Resurrection.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Fifth Monday of the Great Fast, p.265

Tuesday in the Week of Hosanna
The Sixth Tuesday of the Great Fast

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms with their Responses *All from the Common Evening Prayers*...p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...	Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the High and Lofty and Glorious One who is carried on the chariot of the Winged Creatures in awe, and a simple donkey is good for Him, according to His will, and carries Him, in His great compassion. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Christ our God who are Life Eternal, whose Exalted Being is contained neither in that which is above nor in that which is below, neither in that which is within nor in that which is without, for the salvation of the human race You shared in our flesh and blood, and You took upon Yourself everything that belongs to us except for sin, and You performed deeds of power and glorious wonders. And at the time of the fulfilment of Your Saving Economy, You came to Sion, the city of the crucifiers, and to Jericho, the low-lying place, in order that You might draw us up to the heavenly Jerusalem which is the city of the saints, the gathering of Your

true followers. As the Perfector and the Consumator of the Prophetic Mysteries, You sent Simon head of the New Covenant and his companions to bring You a simple beast of burden, that by Your commandments they might release from the bonds and fetters of sin, the untried colt which prefigured the Gentiles, and by their preaching train it and make it fit to be a willing mount. And it was brought to You, and You sat upon it, and You were honoured by it more than by the former people with all their wealth. For You made them to walk according to their own hearts and minds, which they had laid before You on the path of this world, following angelic dispositions and clear doctrine, free from error, as with the lofty palms of theology and the branches of olive, another token of Your love for humankind. They escorted You magnificently before the rulers and powers of this world, as they cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David who became Himself his son, out of goodness."

And we, the nations - the Arameans - who are gathered to worship at Your feast and who desire eagerly to come into Your presence, at this time when You suffered on account of the jealousy of Your own people, we beseech You, by the fragrance of this incense that You will come and guide us beautifully, that we may be worthy to come into Your presence with joy, when we acclaim You in Your city, our highest fulfilment, with loud voices singing hosannas of joy, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel." And we will sing praise and offer thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today He who sits on the chariot of the Winged Creatures rides on a donkey,
acclaimed with the palm branches, the Glorious Lord of all.
An innumerable crowd of people spread out their garments before Him
and acclaim Him with hosannas, "Blessed is Your coming."

The bride whom Moses betrothed on Sinai did not recognize her Lord.
People went out of their minds and had Him crucified.
The bride whom Simon betrothed sings praises,
"Hosanna to the Son of David, hosanna in heaven."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Son of God whom the Winged Creatures bear with awe,
a contemptible beast of burden carries Him through the streets
of Jerusalem. The Fiery Ones cry out to Him, Holy, Holy, Lord.
and the children with branches of olive acclaim Him with hosannas.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Behold, Your King comes to you, O Holy Church,
in humility and with simplicity, mounted on a beast of burden.
Come to meet Him with Your children and sing praise. Blessed is He
who is come and who shall come. Glory to Him who sent Him.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Exalted One who were pleased to use a borrowed mount
and to enter Jerusalem riding on a young donkey.
You were offered fair and sincere praises by innocent children.

Grant us, Lord, that with them we also
may offer fitting praise to Your Majesty
and present the sweet fragrance of incense
to Your Sovereignty, our Lord and our God.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us, Son who were acclaimed with hosannas.

Christ whom the children acclaimed, be gracious to the whole world.

Come, Isaiah, and look at Him whom you saw
on the seat of glory of the Fiery Ones,
whom you declared to be like a lamb led to be sacrificed.

Look, Ezekiel, He whom you saw on the chariot of the
Winged Creatures, in place of the hallowings of the Fiery Ones,
is now acclaimed with songs by the little children.

He at whom Daniel looked with awe
and who is glorified in thick darkness, come and see Him
acclaimed with palm branches in the streets of Jerusalem.

All praises and adorations are due to You,
Son of the Good, who with the hosannas of the children
received the praise of all the earth.

The young acclaim Him with hosannas
and the children with branches of olive,
and we with them say, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

Verses before the readings
He offered sacrifices of thanksgiving to God
and fulfilled His vows to the Lord.
"Call on Me on the day of distress,
I shall strengthen you and you will praise Me."

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Ws	1:1-11	Seek God in simplicity of heart.
Lm	1:12-19	He has sent fire from on high into my bones...
1 Jn	1:1-10	To walk in the light break away with sin.

Gospel acclamations Halleluia... The words of the Lord can be trusted...
As on the Sixth Monday, p.321

Lk 19:1-10 The conversion of Zachaeus the Publican.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Fifth Tuesday of the Great Fast, p.277

Wednesday in the Week of Hosanna
The Sixth Wednesday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms with their responses *All from the Common Evening Prayers*...p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Exalted One who is praised and glorified on the dread chariot with its wheels of fire, in majesty, and who is worshipped and honoured by the spiritual orders of fire and spirit, and who today in a mystery beyond words receives honour, riding on a simple donkey. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

God, exalted and magnified with praises, and lofty and glorious and blessed beyond words and description, who through Your holy prophets revealed to the world the mystery of Your coming and of Your Saving Economy. You accomplished and fulfilled in Your own person the truth of their words and the meaning of their parables. Thus You were pleased to become man for our sake. And when You were about to face and endure the Passion and the Cross and Death for our salvation, in Jerusalem, You sent

Your disciples and made them bring a colt for Your mount, of which Zechariah the prophet had spoken long ago and proclaimed that Your Majesty should be borne upon it. And as You sat on the foal of an ass, and were honoured by the spreading of the garments of the people and the branches and the acclamations of the children, faith in You was manifested about You and Your Godhead, and Your Lordship was revealed about Your Sovereignty appeared to all men. To You belong heaven and earth, and praise and honour and power and might and strength.

Therefore we beseech You, O Lord, strengthen us and help us. Remember our weakness and receive out prayers with the incense which is offered by us in our guilt, and make us praise You in purity and holiness, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

He who is borne in state by the Winged Creatures rides on a donkey.
Throngs of youth and children come out to meet Him
and wave branches and acclaim Him, "Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of our God."

He is like fire, He is lightning and His servants of fire and spirit.
He inclines the heaven to sit on a lowly mount, a young donkey.
In Jerusalem crowds cry out to Him, "Halleluia. Hosanna in the heights
and in the depths to the Son of David who comes for our salvation."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus, it is You whom Isaiah saw in the holy temple,
seated in state and Your love was pleased to be seen by the children
who waved branches and praised You, "Halleluia, hosanna,
in the heights and in the depths. Holy! Holy! Holy are You O God.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

He whom Ezekiel saw on the chariot with wheels of fire and with
the flaming Fiery Ones, today rides on a donkey through Jerusalem
while the children acclaim Him, "Hosanna in heaven. Halleluia.
Blessed is He who has come and will come
in the glorious name of the Father who begot Him."

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Save, Lord, Your spiritual flock
who have come to meet You in Your Mysteries
with praises and hymns of the Holy Spirit
and accept this fragrant incense offered to You with love.

Deliver us from the Enemy, the roaring lion,
and send the companies of Your holy angels
that we may offer praise to You, our Lord and our God for ever.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us, Son who were acclaimed with hosannas.

Child whom the children acclaimed, be gracious to the whole world.

A multitude of women of Israel acclaimed David as the great king,
but the children sang praises to the Son of David with hosannas
and were found worthy to come into the presence of the King who rules
overall kings.

He rejected horses and chariots and chose a simple mount, in fulfilment
of the words of Zechariah the prophet to the people of Jerusalem,
"Behold, your King comes riding on a colt, the foal of an ass."

King David danced before the ark of God
and the children chanted praises before the colt of the Son of David,
while the disciples rejoiced and waved branches of the palm trees.

The prophets praised You by their mysteries, O Lord, for You
fulfilled their words. The apostles proclaimed You in due season,
and You magnify their commemorations, while the Church cries out
with hosannas, "Blessed is the Son of David.

The young praise You with hosannas and the children with olive
branches, and we sing with them, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

Verses Before the Readings

O God, help us, Lord the Sustainer of our lives,
Defeat our cruel enemies and put them to silence by Your truth.
A portion set apart we will offer in sacrifice,
and confess Your Name, O Lord who are Good.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Ws	3:1-15	The different destinies of the good and the wicked.
Lm	1:20-22 2:1-6	Prayer of lamentation poured out before God.
1 Jn	2:1-17	Turn away from sin. Keep the commandments. The law of love.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The words of the Lord can be trusted...
As on the Sixth Monday of the Great Fast, p.321

Mk	10:32-45	Jesus speaks of His Passion, a third time. The sons of Zebedee make their request.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Fourth Wednesday of the Great Fast, p.203

Thursday in the Week of Hosanna
The Sixth Thursday of the Great Fast
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms with their responses *All from the Common Evening Prayers*...p.5

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Lofty One who is exalted above every kind of creature and who came to voluntary humiliation. To the Skilful Workman by whose command children are fashioned in the womb of their mothers, and by whose word are designed and formed the tongues which praise Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord, God of the heavenly powers, You are highly extolled, magnified and praised by the Fiery Ones in a way that cannot be comprehended, as befits their spiritual nature. You are exalted in a manner inscrutable for all beings, intellectual or simple, of above, that dwell in heaven. Yet at the time of the fulfilment, at the end of Your Economy, You became man of Your own will, and in Your willing abasement You sat upon the foal of an ass as a kind of fleshly throne, a lowly mount, signifying by this our poor nature which

by the use of its free will was made like to the beasts. And You deemed it worthy to be called and to become Your home, a seat and a resting place for Your Godhead, that upon it, in like manner as on the chariot of the Winged Creatures, You might enter the temple, spiritual and ineffable of the Jerusalem which is above. And instead of receiving praise from the hosannas of young children, You revealed a new praise, that of the new people, to spring forth and to flourish from among the nations, for which You died and which is to come to meet You at Your second coming.

Therefore while we meditate on these Holy Mysteries, we beseech You that You will visit us all with Your divine visitation. While in Your infinite goodness You bestow on your people, here and everywhere Your graciousness and Your healing compassion, cleanse our minds from thoughts which are like money changers of iniquity and sin. Cast them out from our souls, as You cast out the money changers from the holy temple. Help us that at all times and in all ways we may praise and thank You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

With the eye of the Spirit the prophets foretold and proclaimed
to the people of Jerusalem that the Only One would come
in humility and enter Jerusalem in all simplicity,
riding on a little donkey, a poor beast of burden.

Rejoice exceedingly and exult, Holy Church, bride of Christ,
for, behold, He comes to you as the prophet foretold,
mounted on a little donkey, a poor beast of burden,
and the children acclaim Him, "Hosanna in the heavens."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

He before whom the Winged Creatures tremble and shake in awe,
humbles Himself riding on a donkey in the streets of Jerusalem,
while the crowds acclaim Him, "Blessed is He who has come,
and who will come with glory. Praise to Him who sent Him."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

"Awake, awake, Holy Church," cries out Isaiah,
"the King who is to come has risen and He is coming as it was foretold.
Go and meet Him with hosannas,
and with the children cry out, 'Hosanna in the heavens.'"

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Prepare us all, Lord, clothe us in purity and holiness,
with the right garments for the heavenly wedding feast.
Let the fragrance of our incense be for Your delight,
and may our prayers and intercessions be received gladly by You.

Cleanse our minds and purify our hearts,
from all the money-changer thoughts that lead us into sin.
Make them utterly outcast from our minds and hearts,
that we may not be driven out of Your temple like the money-changers.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us, Son who were acclaimed with hosannas.

Christ whom the children acclaimed, be gracious to the whole world.

Come, O company of the prophets, heralds of the truth.
Do you not see the King turning away from the path
which had been prepared for Him? And now,
it is the young and the children who extol Him with their hosannas.

As David rose and saw Him who was acclaimed, Son of David,
he sounded his harp and the children followed him,
and he led them into holy songs,
"Blessed is He who has come and is to come."

Come, Ezekiel who saw Him on the chariot of the Winged Creatures.
Behold, instead of the hallowing of the Fiery Ones,
He is now praised with the songs of the children.
Zechariah rejoices because He fulfils
the word that the Spirit inspired him.

Glory to You, Lord of the prophets, who came and fulfilled their words.
Now the heavenly ones and the earthly ones praise Him with hosannas.
Hosanna to the Son of David. Glory to Him who sent Him.

The young acclaim Him with hosannas
and the children with branches of olive,
and we with them say, "Hosanna to the Son of David."

Verses before the Readings
Our whole being is longing for God,
for from Him comes our salvation.
Be our God and our Saviour and our refuge,
a strong place of refuge that cannot be shaken.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Ws	4:7-15	The premature death of the virtuous person.
Lm	2:13-20	Jerusalem, let your walls cry out to the Lord.
1 Jn	3:11-24	Love one another. Have courage before God.

Gospel Acclamations Halleluia... The words of the Lord can be trusted...
As on the Sixth Monday of the Great Fast, p...321

Mt 21:1-16 Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.215

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Fourth Thursday of the Great Fast, p.215

The Fortieth Day of The Great Fast
The Sixth Friday

This Day is celebrated as a feast

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Opening Prayer Grant, Lord, to Your Churches that they may fast...p.3

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms with their responses *All from the Common Evening Prayers*...p.4

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Word of the Father who became incarnate for our salvation, and who fasted forty days for our purification, restraining His desire for food for our liberation and entering the unseen warfare with Satan, the enemy of our race. And by completing His Wondrous Fast He gave us a strong armour by which we might defeat our Enemy, who made us fall by greed and covetousness. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Who that is clothed in flesh will be found to render praise even by a simple whispering of the lips, equal to Your love, our true God, Jesus Christ? And what voice is there which would suffice to speak forth the thanksgiving which we owe to Your love for humankind, our God all-adorable? All words and expressions come from You, O Word of God, and all praise and exaltation belongs to You, all abundance of gifts and blessings flows from You.

Therefore we, whom You created with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit in Your living likeness, in the beginning, and for whose renovation and

salvation, in the fulness of time, You humbled Yourself, showing us in Your own person, the way of return to our first place, we entreat Your Lordship and we offer supplication, with the fragrance of this incense, that in these last days, days of late fruit of the Fast, You will fulfill Your sure promise which You made in Your Life-giving Gospel to the diligent servants. At the end of our fast, Lord, make us worthy of the good and full reward which You keep for the good. At the end of our fast, Lord, give us an open face, the confidence of Your friends. At the end of our fast, Lord, let us hear the word calling all to Your Kingdom. At the end of our fast, Lord, give us the grace of the glorious crown of those who have fulfilled Your will. At the end of our fast Lord, make us worthy of Your great marriage feast which does not come to an end. At the end of our fast. Lord, make us worthy of Your Life-giving Passover in which there is no more darkness. At the end of our fast, Lord, make us enter Your marriage chamber of light with the earnest virgins. And grant to all those who are sick, in body, soul or spirit, health and wholeness, and to those who are bondage to the Evil One, freedom and security. To those who are captive to passions or to evil, grant release and true freedom. Comfort those who are weary. Make to stand those who have fallen. Continue Your assistance to the whole company of believers and all dedicated people, and grant forgiveness to those who have followed You in Your Passover with faith, that all may come to offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

Today is the end of the Fast and the Passion of Christ is near.
Blessed are those who pleased Him by fasting
and who carry spiritual gifts for the day of the Resurrection.
They will receive their reward with those who loved Him.

Our Lord fasted forty days for our sake
and He gave us an armour with which we can defeat
the wicked Adversary who, at the beginning,
caused our fall by eating and deprived us from our inheritance.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Let each one consider how much he has gained by the Fast
and what he has obtained through the glorious warfare.
He shall come, the Lord of the talents.
And, behold, it shall be as He foretold:
He will reward each one according to the increase.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

We give thanks to Jesus, the Victorious King,
for His goodness and for His victory over the Evil One,
for His humiliation and His recovering of strength by His Holy Fast,
for His being trampled underfoot for the sake of the believers.
Behold, they sing praise and offer thanksgiving to Him.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

In Your goodness, Lord, be pleased with this incense
which we present to You at the end of the Holy Fast,
and receive also the spiritual fruits,
which we offer to You with simplicity, from the heart.

May they be acceptable in Your sight
as the offerings of the just from the beginning.
And may we all be worthy of the unalterable joy
which is kept for those who do Your will,
that we may offer a perfect praise
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn

Glory to You, our Lord,
Eternal Being from the heart of Your Father,
the Image and Radiance of His Being.
Offspring of the Hidden Father.
Light from all eternity,
before the worlds, before all creatures.
Treasury full of all good things.
Physician and Healer of all diseases.
Our Lord, may Your peace and tranquillity
reign in the four quarters of the earth.

He suffered hunger, as He willed,
He who is the fulness of life
and gives a loving hand to the weak
and scatters the proud.
At the end of forty days
He left weak and weary, as He willed,
He who is the strength of His Father,
and in whom everything has its existence, as it is written.
Praise to Him who so humbled Himself
for the sake of weak Adam.

Glory be to the Father and to Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As the time is coming, the last and fateful day,
behold, Lord, the earth is in travail, burst open and broken,
to recover its vigour through repentance and prayer,
and to receive pardon. Do not withhold Your compassion.
Do not reject those who beseech You,
You who open Your door to the penitents
and who pitch Your tent among Your flock.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Receive our fast and our prayers, O our Saviour,
You, our Lord, who fasted for our sake.
May our fast be joined with Your Fast, O Lover of Humankind,
and be an incense of reconciliation acceptable to Your Majesty.
Now that the contest of the fast has come to an end,
and the Passion is drawing near,
be reconciled with us, in Your graciousness,
and give us the fulness of Your grace.

May our fast be for the pleasure of Your Godhead
and our prayers be acceptable to Your will.
As they are weak and faint-hearted,
may they be perfected by You and obtain Your blessings
and may our supplications be heard.
With the end of the Fast and the coming of the Passion,
may we partake of Your grace and be counted among Your saints.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our aid.
Hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord of the crowns and of divine retribution,
in Your graciousness, give us the full reward in spite of our weakness.
Now that the ship of the Fast is reaching its destination,
True Pilot, You sail into Your harbour which is full of peace.

The race of the Fast is over and as we feel weary we may not watch
and we may find only little joy in Your righteousness.
Let Your grace be with us, Lord, that our faults may not multiply
and our weakness not be put to shame.

Praise to Your Name who bore with the wretchedness,
of us servants full of thoughts which are not pleasing in Your sight.
In You, our Lord, we will seek our joy,
for there is no joy for man except in You who are adored
with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, at all times.

Hear us, O God. Hear us, O God. And be gracious to all.

And make the hearts of the children of men turn to repentance.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Ws	5 : 1 - 16	Judgement : the virtuous, the godless.
Lm	4 :11 - 22	Jerusalem after the fall.
1 Jn	4 : 7 - 21	God is love... Brotherly love.

Gospel Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The words of the Lord can be trusted.
They are more genuine than silver refined in the furnace.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Here comes our King riding on a poor donkey.
He who comes in the name of the Lord
comes to us in simplicity and with gentleness.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 4:1-11 Jesus is led into the desert to be tempted by Satan.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together in fervent supplication and compunction of heart, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all."

Christ our God, who fasted forty days for our purification and by Your fast entered the unseen warfare with Satan, be pleased with our fast and give us a mighty armour by which we can overcome our Enemy who, in Paradise, caused our fall by greed and covetousness, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, who by Your Fast and Your battle with the Enemy taught us to do away with covetousness, and to beat down pride, and to subdue the passions of the flesh, and to put out all evil desires, strengthen us that at the end of the Holy Fast we may walk on the way that leads to our former place, as You showed us in Your own person, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the unity of the Churches and the reconciliation of all nations and for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all people, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations and strengthened in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayers

Christ our God, at the end of the Holy Fast, make us worthy of Your promises to the good labourers who have worked in Your spiritual vineyard and grant us to come to receive Your living body and Your propitiatory blood in purity and holiness, and to partake of Your Holy Passover which leads beyond darkness, and to enter the wedding feast of the wise and earnest virgins, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Lord Jesus Christ,
do not close the door of Your mercy on our faces.
Lord, we confess that we are sinners, be gracious to all.

Your love made You descend from Your place to us.
Lord by whose death our death was ended
be gracious to the whole world.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Everything as on the Fourth Friday of the Great Fast, p.228 *except the Hymn of the Service of Repentance and the Concluding Supplication Song, here below.*

Hymn

Our Lord fasted a fast of purification though He had no need of it, but in order to make His beloved Church worthy of the armour of victory, and to teach her to fast, and to teach her to pray, and to teach her to say, "Our Father who art in heaven", and that whenever she listens to the words of the Adversary, she cannot forget that she has to be saved from the place of darkness, halleluia, halleluia.

Whatever Your right hand does, let not your left hand now it, says the Lord, the son of the left plots evil schemes against your fast. Do not put on a gloomy face, and when you pray do not use a loud voice and do not take pride in the alms you give, for all secret things are known to the Lord of the worlds, halleluia, halleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord fasted in the desert for forty days.
He trod for humankind the path of return to Him.
If He fasted, He who had no need to fast, even for our sake,
how much more should we not fast, we simple creatures,
in order to return to the Paradise destined for us but lost by eating,
and now to be recovered by fasting, halleluia, halleluia.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

To abstain from food is but a small thing. But if alms is added
it becomes a great thing in the eyes of the Lord.
He who fasts and gives to the needy, his fast is accepted,
and he will have a good reward. And he who has nothing to give
but mixes love with his fast will be counted among the good labourers
and will be rewarded in the Kingdom, halleluia, halleluia.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us. Lord, hear our requests.

And from Your treasure-house send us graciousness,
and compassion and forgiveness.

God who for our sake entered the unseen warfare with Satan
and who did away with his rule on earth, deliver us from his snares.

Give us Your blessing, in Your compassion,
that we may please You in all our actions,
with the assistance of Your grace
and a secret token of Your generosity,
for without You, as You said, we can do nothing,
You are the Fountain of all blessings
and the Giver of all good things.

Lord of all, may our desires and our thoughts
be firmly rooted in reverence for You,
and may our fast be for Your pleasure
and may we be fed on Your uprightness.

Glory to You and to Him who sent You,
O Christ who fasted for our sake.
In this world and in the world to come.
In the two worlds, be gracious to all.

You who hear the prayers of those who turn to You,

Hear our prayer and be gracious to the whole world.

Intercessions As on other Fridays.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Saturday of the Raising of Lazarus Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer

Christ our God, who called Lazarus by Your life-giving voice and raised him up from within the grave, and he came out of the tomb after he had been corrupted for four days in the dwelling of Sheol, do You, Lord, loose for us the harsh fetters of sin and death, that we may praise You unceasingly, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 88 (87) Lord, God, my Saviour, day and night I cry to You...

RESPONSE
You have laid me in the depths of a tomb,
in a dark place, in the lowest abyss.
Weighed down by Your judgement,
I am drowned beneath Your waves.
Imprisoned, I cannot escape.
My eyes grow dim through affliction.
Will You not work Your wonders for the dead?

Lazarus had been buried in a cave
with a stone closing the opening.
Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
But Martha answered, "Lord, there will be a bad smell.
he has been there four days."
"If you have faith", said Jesus,
"You will see the glory of God."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...page 5

RESPONSE
Death, the great house in which all generations entered,
broke down for Lazarus when the Son of God called,
"Lazarus, come forth from the tomb."
And the crowds watching Him cried out,
"Blessed is the coming of the Lord."

Our Lord said to the disciples,
"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep.
Arise, let us go to Bethany and make a wonder there.
When you will see, you will cry out,
'Blessed is the coming of the Lord'."

The Lord of the ends of the earth said to His disciples,
"For your sake I rejoice that I was not there,
because when you see Lazarus risen, you will believe.
And crying out aloud you will say,
'Blessed is the coming of the Lord'."

Lord, You went and came to Bethany.
Martha met You and said with great sorrow,
"Had You been here, O Compassionate One,
Lazarus would not have died, for You have revealed Yourself
our Lord, as He who raises all the dead."

With great sorrow and tears flowing from His eyes,
our Saviour answered and said to Martha,
"Only show Me the tomb and today you will believe,
seeing the glory of the Lord
and the miracle done with your brother."

He who knows all secrets and who searches
the heart's innermost recesses and all that is hidden,
enquires as one who does not know, "Where is the tomb of Lazarus?"
Because I called on Him, He answered me.
Praise and exaltation for ever!

Jesus reached the tomb and halted there.
Then He raised His voice in a great cry,
"Lazarus, come forth." And at once the dead man came out.
And the crowd saw it and cried out,
"Blessed is the coming of the Lord."

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who awakens those who have fallen asleep in the dust and makes them to stand, the Creator and Fashioner of all creatures who in His Economy for our Salvation works glorious deeds, and with a great cry called Lazarus His friend, and raised him from the dead. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, Lover of Truth and Right, and Hope which does not put to shame, You do not forsake Your friends in life or in death. In Your coming to us You descended to the utmost lowliness and You took upon You all that is human except sin. You made for Yourself beloved friends, disciples and companions, fathers and brothers and kindred. While in Your Godhead You are high above all sensible and spiritual intelligences, You were pleased to reveal, even to those who were far off Your benevolence, Your boundless love for humankind. You so loved our fallen and sinful nature, that You were pleased, suddenly, according to Your divine will, to appoint an end for Your friend Lazarus, separating his soul and spirit from the body. And when he was as one who is without consciousness, You said to Your disciples, "Come, let us go again into Judea." And when the sun's rays were still strong, You came with the glorious company of your apostles. You found Your friend already dead, and his holy sisters Mary and Martha standing in sorrow with those who had come from Jerusalem to sympathize with them over their brother. Then You suffered in a human manner and You revealed Your humility by shedding tears from Your eyes,

and by Your prayer at the grave, and by Your sorrow for Your friend, and by Your thanksgivings offered to Your Father. But when You cried to Lazarus, "Come forth," it was Your divine authority which was revealed, for straightway the dead man came forth, with his hands and feet still bound and his face wrapped in a shroud and he began to walk. Satan was terrified. Death howled. Sheol was cast down. The people were confused, and the Scribes and Pharisees covered their heads.

Therefore we beg of Your love, our God, all-adorable, abounding in all things, that as You raised Lazarus You will raise us from death in sin, and make us stand like Your friend, from our wretched fall into disgrace. Give us joy as You did to Mary and Martha, Your disciples and friends. Bestow on us the healing of our diseases, refreshment in our afflictions. And make us worthy, with all those who have followed You in Your Passover with faith, to stand at Your right hand and to praise Your Majesty, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

The two sisters, Martha and Mary,
in great sorrow, wrote a letter to Jesus,
"Lord, Lazarus, Your friend, is sick.
Come, visit him and lay Your hand on him lest he die.
Halleluia, halleluia, may he be healed by You."

At the death of Lazarus the Beloved, Mary said to Jesus,
"All-merciful and compassionate Lord, if only You had been here,
Your friend, our brother Lazarus, would not have died."
Halleluia, halleluia, blessed is He who raised him to life.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Martha said to Jesus, "Where were You who give sight to the blind?
Could You not have kept Your friend Lazarus from dying?"
"I am the resurrection and I am life," said Jesus,
"He who believes in Me, though He die, yet shall he live."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to the Son of God who like a son of man wept
for His friend and asked where they had buried him,
but as God, called the dead man and raised him up to life,
and rejoiced his sisters, halleluia, and they sang praise.

Our Saviour made a wonder when He raised Lazarus from the dead
and called him with His life-giving voice,
for when He said, "Lazarus, come out from there,"
halleluia, he came forth alive.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ our God, You became incarnate for our sake
and fulfilled Your Economy for our salvation
and walked in the land of Judah,
to make us return to our former glory.
And You performed mighty acts and signs,
You healed the sickness of the human family,
and at the end of Your Economy,
You called Lazarus and raised him from the tomb.

Receive this fragrant incense which we offer You in our weakness,
in memory of the resurrection of Your friend,
and, in Your graciousness, raise us up from the death of sin
and forgive all our offences. In Your goodness
give rest to those who followed You in Your Passover,
that we may thank You and adore You, our Lord,
and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn

Our Lord called Lazarus from the tomb. Though he had been
decaying four days, he rose, revived by the voice of His Master.
As the dead body stirred and then moved out of the tomb,
Death saw him and was terrified, and the people who had not believed
were seized with awe and trembling when he was unbound, as Jesus
ordered. But his sisters were immensely consoled.

Glory to You, our Lord, eternally existing from the heart of the Father,
Image and Effulgence of His Being, the Hidden and Holy Father,
Light which was from the beginning, before ages and times,
Treasure-house full of good things and Physician who heals all pains,
our Lord, make Your peace and tranquility reign in the four quarters.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As Martha was weeping, she said to our Lord,
"O You who give life to the dead, where have You been?
Greedy Death broke into our house and despoiled us,
taking away Your friend Lazarus and putting him in the tomb."
Our Lord answered her, "Believe Me, I shall raise your brother,
for I am the Resurrection and all those who believe in Me obtain life."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Truly it was a wonder when Lazarus rose from the tomb,
as Christ our Saviour raised him up four days after his death.
As his body stirred, he came out from the house of the dead
with hands and feet still bound. Death was terrified at this sight
for such a return to life had never been seen or heard of.
But all the people marvelled and sang praise to God.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Give rest to Your servants, Son of God, among the just,
in the Kingdom which shall not pass away, with the saints.

To You be praise, who raise up the dead from their graves,
to clothe them in a robe of glory on the day of the resurrection.

The Son of the Exalted One mingled with the earthly ones,
to make them one with Himself in the glory of His Father.
But as the Prince of Light delayed in Galilee,
His friend Lazarus fell sick and died.

The noble Martha and the holy Mary sent a messenger to Christ
to bring Him the news of the sickness of their brother.
"Lord, Your friend is sick. We send for You, Good Physician."
But He delayed there, to manifest His power by a miracle.

Then the Great Sun came to Bethany, all radiant,
and ordered the dead man to stand up in his tomb,
calling out to him in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"
Stirred by the voice of the Son, Lazarus rose from the tomb.

Glory to the Father, who defeated Death through Lazarus.
Adoration to the Son, who put her to shame for all generations
and to the Holy Spirit through whom all the dead rise
and they sing praise to His Divinity for ever and ever.

To You be praise, who raise up the dead from their graves,
to clothe them in a robe of glory on the day of the resurrection.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Behold, He makes wonders for the dead
and the dead bodies offer praise to Him.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He is the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in Him,
even though he dies, will live.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 11: 5 - 6 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.
11 - 44

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all."

Christ our God, who became incarnate for our sake and fulfilled Your Economy of Salvation by suffering death for us and by rising on the third day from the tomb, raise us up from the death of sin and restore the whole creation to its former glory, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Christ our God, who like a son of man grieved and wept over Your friend Lazarus when he died, and as God by Your life-giving voice, made him come forth out of the tomb, be the resurrection and the life of all those, Your friends also, who die in faith and hope, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to all.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Christ our God, to keep away from sin and to be gladdened always by Your glorious light, that we may be delivered from the bonds of death and corruption, and come to the resurrection with Your saints, in light, we beseech You and we will cry three times
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

SATURDAY OF THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p-1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy!Lord...p-1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep ...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE
It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing, "Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The Winged Creatures bless You. The Fiery Ones hallow Your Glory.
The angels and the sons of men sing Holy, holy to You.
Holy! Holy! Holy/! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Our Saviour performed a wonderful miracle for Lazarus.
He raised him to life when he was already decaying.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The people seeing Lazarus coming forth, hands and feet bound,
praised God who gives hope to those who are without hope.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is He who raised Lazarus from the tomb,
Blessed is He who gladdened Lazarus at the meal,
and revealed the resurrection and the new life to His disciples.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD

Common Response

It was not One that the Father brought forth
and another that Mary brought forth.
Him whom the Father brought forth
the Virgin also brought forth.
His birth from the Father was spiritual.
His birth from the Virgin was in the flesh.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Being who shone forth gloriously from the Joyous Light and was born in the flesh from the Virgin Mary, who is praised by those in heaven and those on earth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We beseech you, O Holy Virgin, Mother of God the Word, that you will intercede for us with Christ who came forth from you, that He may bestow on us, on this day of your remembrance, the pardon of our offences, and give peace to the Churches and the monasteries. May He give health to the sick, true consolation to the sorrowing, food to the hungry, release to those in bondage and hope to the sad-hearted. To all those who have asked for prayers from our poor selves, may He send an angel of peace to visit them, by your intercession, O Pure Virgin. May He give rest to our departed who have slept in true faith, and bring them to the dwelling of the blessed. And there may we and they offer praise and thanksgiving to Him and to His Hidden Father and to His Life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
Like the fragrance of sweet incense, O Lord,
the memory of Your Mother gives You pleasure,
who brought You forth in virginity and purity and holiness.
Let memory be made of her, our Lord,
here in the Churches as above in heaven.

The chariot of the Winged Creatures
is not equal to you, O Holy Virgin.
It had faces and wheels and eyes all around, but you,
O blessed one, you have a mouth to sing praise to God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to Holy Spirit.

Glory to the Father who chose you from the beginning, O Holy Virgin.
Thanksgiving to Jesus, His Son, who was pleased to become
flesh from you. And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy,
who made you His temple when He descended and dwelt in you.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

"Peace be with you, full of grace," said the Wakeful One to the Virgin,
"The Lord is with you and shall come forth from you,
the Saviour of the whole creation,
the King whose Kingdom shall have no end for ever and ever."

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O blessed one,
may your prayer always be with us,
may the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

You who are full of graciousness,
pray and beseech Him who is all graciousness,
to be gracious to all who are in distress.

Come, you who have discernment, with faith and great love
let us honour the memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
with prolonged watching and unceasing prayer,
for a double reward is given to those who honour her.

Come, holy one, on the day of your remembrance, distribute gifts
to this assembly which seeks your prayer and intercession.
May the Lord be a rampart to our community which honours you,
and may He keep away from the whole world all harm and evil.

May the Strong One who strengthened You, strengthen our assembly in your praise, and by your prayers may He call us to the abode of light. May the Lord join to the companies of the angels the living and the dead
who have honoured your commemoration
and who take refuge in your prayer.

Glory to the Father who chose Mary from all generations.
Adoration to the Son who descended and dwelt in her pure womb.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who purified and hallowed her,
and then rested upon her.
And on us graciousness, by her prayers, at all times.

By the prayers of her who carried You for nine months,
Son of God, keep away from this world all evil and oppression.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH FOR THE SAINTS

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

Blessed are you, holy ones,
who are called blessed in the Gospel of the Son.
Behold, your names are written in the Book of Life.
Blessed is he who honours you
and who shares in your commemorations.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who crowns the martyrs and in whom the saints put their trust, to that Great and Glorious Source of Life which sprang from Golgotha in the middle of the earth, and made drunk the holy martyrs so that they conquered and overcame the Evil One and his powers in their conflict and wrestling contest. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We beseech you, prophets, apostles and martyrs, by your prayers may our weakness be strengthened and may the world be established in peace and tranquility. May healing come to all who suffer in body, soul or spirit. Let the pattern of ecclesiastical law be renewed among us, that the Churches may become true images of the Gospel. And let us be called and invited to your festivals. May the departed believers who took refuge in you in their life time come to dwell with you in heaven. And may we and they be worthy to sing praise with you, and offer thanksgiving to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

How lovely is your remembrance.
How fair and pleasant is the day of your festival.
you who made the Cross a bridge to enter the land of life.
The Holy Spirit rejoiced over you,
and wove crowns for you and placed them on your heads.

How fair is the feast which Christ makes for His servants.
There are present the prophets and the apostles.
There are the holy martyrs and the Lord of the feast rejoices
in the memory of the just who are honoured and crowned.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

You are Physicians, blessed martyrs, to him who believes.
Blessed is he who honours you and takes part in your festivals.
He shall be invited to your assembly
and with you he shall inherit life for ever.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The martyrs stand in the court of judgement crying out:
"Let us not fear the judges of this passing world.
Let us rather die with faith and hope.
We have a king, who makes us inherit life for ever."

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Make us to share, Lord, in the memory of Your saints,
the prophets and seers and all those who sought You,
men of vision who committed themselves to You.

By the prayer of those who realized You
with their inmost self absorbed in You,
draw us and all things to Yourself, our Lord.

"Who is My true devotee?" says the Lord.
"He who is beyond excitement and repulsion,
who complains not and lusts not for things,
who remains unmoved by good and evil fortune
and who has love, he is dear to Me."

I love the man who is even-minded to friend and foe,
whose heart is at peace in honour and disgrace,
in heat and cold, pleasure and pain,
who is free from the chain of attachments.

The man who remains the same in blame and in praise,
whose heart is quiet, who is happy with whatever he has
whose home is not this world
and who has love, he is dear to Me.

But even dearer to Me is he who has faith and love,
and who has Me as his end supreme,
he who hears My word of truth
and who comes to the waters of everlasting life.

By the prayer of those who realized You
and to whom You gave a sure hope of immortality,
draw us and all things to Yourself, our Lord.

Hymn *Madrosho*

Praise to the Good One who raised up Lazarus by the sound of His voice.

Sickness fell on Lazarus, the friend of Jesus.
Mary and Martha, in great pain, wrote a letter saying,
"Behold, Your friend is sick. Come and visit him that he may not die".

The Prince of Truth said to the company of the disciples,
"Lazarus our friend has fallen ill. I am glad not to have been there,
for your own sake, that you may believe that I am the Lord.

Thomas said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him,
for death with Him is life, and blessed is he who is one with Him."
He ascended to Bethany to manifest His power to the people.

The Son of God exposed Himself to humiliation: He let it be seen
that He did not know, when He had to ask where was the tomb,
He before whom all hidden and secret things lie open.

Your life-giving voice called the dead in Sheol and made them to rise.
By You all those who weep will be consoled, like the sisters of Lazarus.
Those who lie in Sheol will rejoice in You on the day of the resurrection.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH FOR THE RESURRECTION

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Common Response

Among the trees of Paradise sleep charmed me and I slept.
A wind breathed and the trees were stirred
and a sweet voice fell on my ears,
and I knew that my sins are forgiven.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who by His death put an end to our death and by His sacrifice for us made atonement for us and redeemed the children of Adam. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We beg of You, Lord God, when those on the right hand are in triumph and those on the left are cast down, when the fire of Your judgement will divide humankind, giving light to the just and burning the faithless, may the departed believers who were clothed in You in baptism and who received You as the provision for the journey to eternity go to

meet You with faces unveiled. May they be given rest in the joy of eternal glory with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We beseech You, Lord, in Your graciousness be reconciled with them on account of the sacrifices and prayers which are offered for them. And grant that we with them may meet You with bright lamps like the wise and earnest virgins. And with them we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Blessed Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Remember us and do not forget us.

O Christ, do not disregard Your worshippers.
Do not turn away from us who take refuge in You.
Lead us in the way of life and make us worthy, Lord,
to sing praise to You by night and by day.

Do not turn away Your face from us.

O Christ, lover of penitents, who came to call sinners,
receive us all, penitents who knock at the door of Your mercy.
Grant, Lord, that we may be truly penitent,
in thought and deed as well as in words.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

When the horn resounds in the heights and the trumpet is heard,
the tombs and the rocks shall be rent and all the dead shall rise.
At that hour, our Lord, be gracious to all,
and make them stand at Your right hand.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When You come to judge the whole creation, our Lord,
at Your judgement-seat so dreadful to all who behold it,
at that hour, our Lord, be gracious to all
and make them stand at Your right hand.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Renew, O Full of Mercy, Your creatures by the resurrection,

Your servants and Your worshippers who have slept in Your hope.

O Lord, give rest and pardon to the dead,
who have slept in Your hope and await Your coming.

Give rest to those in the grave, O Heavenly King,
and multiply forgiveness for the departed believers.

At the side of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, O Lord,
make to rest Your servants who have slept in Your hope.

Glory to Christ who calls the dead,
and they rise without corruption and sing praise.

Body, soul and spirit will awake and cry together:
"Blessed is He who has come and will come to raise the dead."

FOURTH WATCH

When the lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside,

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, Halleluia...p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...p.16

Common Response

Praise to the Holy Trinity.
Praise to the Holy Trinity
We praise the glorious Trinity,
Eternal and Everlasting.
To You belongs the praise, O God, at all times.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who raises those who have slept in the dust and who called Lazarus, His friend, from the tomb after he had been decaying for four days, and raised him to life. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, when Your passion was drawing near You experienced the anguish of death. And when You foretold to Your disciples that Your hour had come You were so troubled that You prayed the Father to be saved from this hour of suffering. Yet You added that this was the very

reason for which You had come to us, and You strengthened Yourself by recalling that if the grain of wheat sown into the earth dies, it bears much fruit.

Therefore we beseech You, strengthen us also and all those who suffer anguish at the hour of death. Give us faith like that of Martha who believed that her brother Lazarus would be raised to life on the last day. Make us experience, even now, that You are the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believes in You will live even though he dies. And whoever lives and believes in You will never die, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us, O Lord of life and death.

You who raised Lazarus to life pardon us and our departed.

Our Lord came to Bethany were Lazarus had been buried.
Four days had passed since they laid him in the tomb.
Many people had come to comfort Martha and Mary,
So they were all assembled to see the miracle.

Jesus asked where Lazarus had been laid in the tomb.
and as He wept the people said, "See how much He loved him."
Then He ordered them to roll away the stone
which had been placed over the tomb four days before.

Our Lord said, "If you believe you shall see the glory of God."
Then He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out, hands and feet wrapped in grave clothes.
And all were filled with wonder and sang praise to God.

Praise, honour and adoration to the Father all-adorable,
who sent His Son for our salvation, and at Bethany He made a miracle.
To the Holy Spirit a shout of joy, who moved the crowds to praise.
And on us graciousness and compassion, at all times. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Sunday of Hosanna
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxolgy Glory be to the Father...p-1

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day of your entry into Jerusalem, make us worthy to meet You with robes of glory and the spiritual brightness with pure and holy thoughts. And carrying branches of praise and palms of splendour we will cry and say : "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in highest heaven," now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 8 Lord our Lord, how glorious Your name through all the earth!

RESPONSE
How glorious is Your name through all the earth,
Your Majesty is praised above the heavens.
From the lips of children and infants You were given praise,
While the mighty were rebuked and the enemies put to silence.
All servants of the Lord, bless the Lord God.
Exalt Him and thank Him and bless Him for ever.

Rejoice exceedingly Jerusalem, and be glad.
Exult and keep festival at all times, you all
who love the Holy City, for Christ who reigns over the nations,
the Lord of the creation, comes riding on an ass
to overthrow the power of the Enemy. Acclaim Him.
You all, servants of the Lord, bless the Lord God.
Exalt Him and thank Him and bless Him for ever.

Prophets, you all who prophesied concerning Him, rejoice with us.
David, who said that the mouths of the youth
and of the children should offer praise to the Lord.
Isaiah, who called: "Awake, awake and go forth to meet Him,
singing the glory of the bride whom He has espoused."
You all, servants of the Lord, bless the Lord God.
Exalt Him and thank Him and bless Him for ever.

With the whole company of the disciples,
in great joy we sing praise to God
for all the great things He has done.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
You all, servants of the Lord, bless the Lord God.
Exalt Him and thank Him and bless Him for ever.

Evening Psalms We call upon you, Lord, hear us...page 5

RESPONSE
For our salvation Christ humbles Himself,
He enters Jerusalem seated on an ass.
And the children and young people praise Him with hosannas.
Hosanna in highest heaven, hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed are the children who were counted worthy
to see the Son of God when He entered into Jerusalem.
Waving branches of olive they praised Him, saying:
"Hosanna in highest heaven, hosanna to the Son of David."

"Rejoice, exult, be glad and sing praise," cried out
the prophet Zechariah when he announced to the people of Jerusalem,
"Behold, your King comes as it was foretold!
Rise, go out to meet Him and sing praise with hosannas."

Today, children small and great
together with the disciples sing a new praise.
They cut branches of olive and palms, and say:
"Hosanna to the Son of David." ...

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him high and exalted in His Godhead, who in His humility lowered Himself and visited us. He whose Sovereignty children and infants proclaim, remains unchangeable in His Being. He whom the wheels with voices carry on a chariot, bestrides a poor mount to enter into Jerusalem,

although the heavenly beings do not cease to praise Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord our God whom the angels bless and praise in awe, You willed to offer Yourself to Your Saving Passion and to taste death from which life comes to us. You were pleased to enter Jerusalem solemnly, riding on the foal of an ass, in humility, to overcome the pride of the Enemy and to fulfil the oracles of the prophets by Your condescending to so poor a mount. One of them cried: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, for behold your King comes to you." Another prophesied, "I have seen the glory of the Lord in the East." One of them declared, "He will tie His ass to a vine and His foal to the stock of a vine." And another, "He will raise His voice, He in whose hand are all the heavenly beings." Another cried, "I will praise the Word of God." Another sang, "The Lord will appear on the clouds of heaven." Another announced, "The Lord will put an end to the captivity of His people and make them return to Jerusalem." Another, still, proclaimed joyfully, "From the mouths of the youth comes praise to the Lord." One said, "The Lord will renew His Covenant with His people and will set them free from the rule of Evil." Another declared, "The nations shall confess the Name of the Lord." And another, still, "Behold on the mountains the feet of those who proclaim peace." One gave a command, "Awake, awake Jerusalem, clothe yourself in splendour and power."

In truth, by Your coming You have revealed the truth of the oracles of the holy prophets and You have fulfilled them in deed. When the youth were singing, "Hosanna in the heights, hosanna to the Son of David," the heavenly beings were astounded at the depth of Your condescension for us. Even those who could not speak offered You gifts of palm branches, and the children hosannas. The trees gave their branches and the disciples their garments. Others with the branches they cut from the trees offered new gifts to their Lord, and others, still, cried out, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Some stirred Jerusalem with their psalms, others improvised songs, and others still invited the dumb stones to praise the Great King.

With them we rejoice and we praise You, on this day of Your Entry into Jerusalem, and we ask You, Christ our God, to number us with the company of those who praise You. Remove from Your Churches discords and rivalries and raise them to be lights for the world. Spread in them Your peace and Your tranquility, that shining with the rays of divine knowledge, they may make You present in this world. And all may go forth to greet You with joy, in the world to come, carrying palms of glory and singing hosannas unceasingly. Praise and thanksgiving to You, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

The Lord Jesus coming to the Mount of Olives
called two of His disciples and said to them,
"Go now to the village which is before you.
You will find an ass tied there and her foal at her side.
Loose them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you,
tell him that the Lord is making His Entry into Jerusalem,
and the children will go out to meet Him with branches of olive."

The disciples went and found all as Jesus had said.
They loosed the ass and brought her to Him.
They spread their garments on her that He might use her as His mount
to enter Jerusalem. He whom the Winged Creatures carry on a chariot,
behold, others spread their garments on the road before Him, singing,
"Blessed is Your Kingdom, O Great King of Israel. Hosanna to
the Son of David who has come to save us from deceit and untruth."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Praise for Your graciousness, O Lord of all,
which You have to bestowed on our humanity. From the chariot
of the Winged Creatures You take Your seat on a poor donkey,
and instead of the hallowings of the Fiery Ones who call aloud,
"Holy, the Lord Almighty," the voices of the children, in the streets,
welcome You for our salvation, "Blessed is Your coming,
King of kings and Lord of angels, who exalt the Holy Church."
And now she sings a sublime praise to You with hosannas.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Wakeful Ones in the heights are astounded and seized with wonder,
seeing Him who is carried on the backs of the Winged Creatures,
sitting on a poor donkey. He has come down to save the race of Adam.
And the children with branches of olive acclaim Him, crying out,
Hosanna in the heights. Blessed is He who has come for our salvation.
The Exalted One has lowered Himself for our sake,
to raise us up with Him to heaven, beside Him who sent Him.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord, make to descend the hand of Your graciousness
and hallow this incense which we present to You at this hour
and bless Your people here assembled in Your Holy Name,
to celebrate Your glorious entry into the Holy City.

And make us worthy at Your second coming from heaven
to meet You, carrying palms of praise and singing hosannas,
and we will offer praise and thanksgiving with hosannas,
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn
Come, preachers of truth, prophets of the Spirit
who foretold the coming of the Only Son,
rejoice, exult and be glad today.
He comes, He is near, He is there,
riding upon the foal of an ass, and He enters Jerusalem
while the children and the young people sing glory to Him.
Hosanna in the heights and in the depths.

You are carried with Your Father in a whirlwind of fire
while the chariot of the Winged Creatures
offers blessings to the majesty of Your glory.
But You humble Yourself for us, seating Yourself on a poor donkey.
Glory to You who so inclined Your greatness for our sake,
and from the glory of the heavenly beings came to our poor selves.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of the prophets breathes to revive them
that they may see the Son riding on a poor and simple ass.
Jacob calls Lazarus: "Your friend comes and meets You

bringing the foal from the vine,
and the children cry before Him, as Isaiah the prophet said:
"Blessed is He who has so inclined His greatness."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

He before whom the Winged Creatures tremble while He is near the
Father, and to whom the Fiery Ones cry out: "Holy, holy, holy,"
has lowered Himself to us and is seated on a poor donkey.
Before Him the children sing: "Hosanna to the Son of David."
Blessed is He who has come and will come.
Glory to Him and to Him who sent Him.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
"Holy, holy, holy, Lord", sing the heavenly beings.
Holy is the Lord who enters Jerusalem riding on an ass.

Sing to Him, sing to Him, sing praise to Him,
the Son of God who is worthy of all praise.
How could we ever cease to sing praise to Him?

The beloved Church hastens to meet the Son of God and chants:
"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed is the Kingdom promised to David our father."
By the mouths of their children the Churches rejoice
in the Bridegroom, their Lord. Hosanna in highest heaven.

David takes his mystic harp to praise Him with the children.
Those on high and those below offer praise and adoration.
The Churches acclaim Him and rejoice in their Saviour.
To Christ, the Lord of all, they sing, "Hosanna, halleluia".

O believing Church, praise Him who espoused you.
Invite and call the nations to the wedding feast,
and with all your people acclaim Him:
"Blessed are you, O Lord. To You all praise."

The prophets go before Him.
The apostles come after Him.
And the young men and the children
acclaim Him with their hosannas.

Zechariah the Prophet prophesied, saying:
"Rejoice, O Daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your King comes to you."

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia,
The mouths of babes and children
sing praise to You, halleluia.

Praise, honour and exaltation to You
who are all light, glorious hero!
And mighty hosannas for the liberation of Your people.

And Mary sings on the timbrel and the harp: "Praise to God."

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
to You, God, the Strong
who enter Jerusalem riding on an ass.

Praise, praise, praise, praise and praise
to You God, the Mighty,
who enter Jerusalem riding on an ass.

Glory, glory, glory, glory and glory to You, God, the Powerful
who enter Jerusalem riding on an ass.
Because You are all glorious.

Lk 19:28-40 The Messiah's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with exultation and acclamations of hosannas: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who prompt us to ponder over Your Gospel to enlighten our understanding of the spiritual things we experience in our lives, make Your words always active in our hearts until they reach their fulfilment in us, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who when Your Passion was approaching went ahead to Jerusalem and lowered Yourself riding on a little donkey to enter the Holy City, make us worthy to acknowledge You always as our God and Saviour, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who when You came near Jerusalem where the road goes down the Mount of Olives were acclaimed by the people with hosannas, great us at Your second coming from heaven to go out to meet You with palms of praise in the midst of hosannas, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Grant Lord, that while carrying the noble and divine branches of faith we may be clothed in the garments of justice and holiness with love, that at Your second coming with all the saints we may praise You with earnestness and spiritual joy, Christ our God, and we will cry and say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, ave mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy!...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep ...p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

With those on high, the great powers of the angels,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You as we say:
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures."

With the Winged Creatures we bless You. With the Fiery Ones
we hallow Your name, O Lover of Humankind.
With the angels we bow to You in adoration.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

All peoples shout and sing praise to Him who rides on an ass.
O Churches, rejoice in Him who comes to You to dwell with You.
You all, go out to meet Him with hosannas and sing praise.

Blessed is the Good One who gathers those who are scattered.
Blessed is He who makes Adam to return to the Garden.
To Him all praise, the Creator of all creatures.

The priests want to silence the people who praise the Son.
But the Lord of all warns them: "If my disciples keep quiet,
the stones themselves will cry, 'Glory to Him who lowered Himself'."

As the children cry out: "Hosanna", our Lord enters the temple,
and the companies of the people cry out and say:
"Praise to you, Creator of all creatures."

Glory to You, our Lord, in whom the children of Adam
are saved from untruth and made worthy to praise Your name
with the spiritual beings who hallow Your Godhead.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 121 I rejoiced when I heard them say to me...

RESPONSE
We rejoiced when we heard them say:
"Let us go to the house of the Lord",
Now we stand within your gates, Jerusalem,
the city where people come together in unity.

Your manifestation fills us with awe,
we are seized with terror!
You who taught us by signs
now Your coming is drawing near.

The day of Your manifestation calls us
to wake up from sleep and to be ready.
Behold, the Bridegroom has come,
let us take our lamps and go forth to meet Him.

Glory to You, our Lord, who loved our race so much
from the beginning, and for our sake willed to lower Yourself
to raise us from the fall; see those who are redeemed
by Your coming, praise You, saying: Hosanna in heaven.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the King of the heights who prepared a lowly mount for his manifestation, and sat upon a colt, the foal of an ass of His own will, to the Holy One whose glory the Fiery Ones sound with the voice of praise and who is lauded by children and infants according to His good pleasure, to Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God who are carried on the chariot of the Winged Creatures in fear, for the sake of our salvation here on earth, You were mounted upon a dumb beast in the flesh. You put the seal on the prophecies of the prophets by Your entry into Jerusalem, those prophets who like trumpets cried in all the inhabited world concerning Your saving coming, when one of them said that the sceptre shall not depart from Judah, until He should come to whom the Kingdom belongs. Another announced: "Rejoice and exult, Daughter of Sion, for behold, your King comes to you, meek and riding upon an ass, and a colt, the foal of an ass!" One of them sang that from the mouth of young men and boys praise shall be established for the Lord. Another, that He shall bind his colt to the vine and foal to the young vine. One announced how fair on the mountains are the feet of those who proclaim peace and make righteousness known. Another cried, behold, the Lord comes. Daughter of Sion, go forth to meet Him with joy. When at Your entry into Jerusalem upon an ass these prophecies were fulfilled, the heavenly powers marvelled at Your humility for our sake.

Therefore we beseech You, on this day of Your entry into Jerusalem, that You will bestow on us the pardon of offences and forgiveness of sins. Let us appear before You with the glorious garments of virtue and the comely branches of faith, and for all Your benefits and blessings bestowed upon us we will offer praise and honour and exaltation to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
He whom Ezekiel saw on the chariot with living wheels,
the blind meet Him and their eyes are opened,
the lepers approach Him and they are cleansed,
the people full of joy praise Him with hosannas.

Today the Saviour enters Jerusalem riding on an ass.
The people come out to meet Him waving branches
and they shout praises which cannot be silenced:
"Hosanna to the Son of David who comes to save us."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, O Son of God,
but You ride into Jerusalem on a small donkey.
The legions of fire and spirit shrink from Your power
but the earthly ones sing hosannas to the Son of David.

From age to age for ever. Amen.

The Hidden Kingdom is made known by hosannas,
the great sovereignty is declared by halleluias.
The children proclaim the greatness of Your majesty
and speak of You with wonder through the power of the Spirit.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord, in His place...p.11

Psalm 146 It is good to praise our God...

RESPONSE
The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back the exiles;
He heals the broken-hearted
and binds up all their wounds.

They shall never again feel hunger or thirst
because the Lamb who is in the centre of the throne
will guide them to the springs of the waters of life
and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Arise, O Church, and be enlightened
for the Bridegroom has come to dwell in you.
Let your children sing hosanna.
Blessed is He who has come and is to come.
Come, all nations, bow to Him and worship Him.

Glory to Him who has come
and fulfilled the words of His servants and preachers.
Isaiah called Him, Wonder, and Daniel, the Ancient of Days.
And David, son of Jesse, announced the sceptre and the staff
that would be the support of our weakness.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the High One who is exalted in His Godhead above all nature, yet came to voluntary humiliation, to the Skilful Workman by whose command children are fashioned in the womb and by whose word are formed and framed the tongues which praise Him: To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord, God of the companies on high, You are exalted inscrutably by all the incorporeal and simple beings who dwell above in heaven. Yet of Your own will You became a man in the last days, and at the end of Your economy and Your willing abasement sat upon the foal of an ass as a kind of fleshly throne and a lowly mount, and by this signified our poor nature which by the use of its free will was made like to the beasts. And You were pleased to call it and make it Your own and make it a seat and

resting-place for Your Godhead, that upon it, in like manner as on the chariot of the Winged Creatures, You might enter the spiritual and ineffable temple of Jerusalem which is above. And instead of receiving praise from hosannas of young children You revealed a new praise and proclaimed a new people which grew up from among the Gentiles, for whom You died and which is to come to meet You at Your second coming.

Therefore while we meditate on these Holy Mysteries we beseech You that You will visit us all with Your divine visitation, and by Your incomprehensible grace bestow on Your people here and in every place Your mercy and abundance of compassion, while You cleanse our minds from thoughts which are like money-changers of iniquity and sin. Make these outcast from our souls, as You cast out the money-changers from the holy temple. Help us that at all times and in all ways we may praise and thank You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus humbled Himself to confound the Evil One
and to raise up the image of Adam after his fall.
Halleluia, halleluia, blessed is the Good One
who descends to save us and to raise us up to his Father.

On this day Zechariah rejoices and acclaims the Son of God
who is riding on an ass, as he prophesied.
Halleluia, halleluia, blessed is the Most High
who in humility fulfills all the symbols and mysteries.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On this day Isaiah rejoices for he had announced: "Arise,
Daughter of Jerusalem, and offer praise, the King has come."
Halleluia, halleluia, clothe yourself in beauty.
Blessed is He whose coming the prophets of His Father announced.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Enter, Lord, dwell in our hearts and purify our foulness.
Drive out the money-changers who spoil our house.
May Your Father dwell in us and be our preceptor.
May the Holy Spirit come and make us His temple.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place...p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord," sing the heavenly beings.
Holy is the Lord who enters Jerusalem riding on an ass.

Sing to Him, sing to Him, sing praise to Him,
the Son of God who is worthy of all praise.
How could we ever cease to sing praise to Him?

Thousands of thousands of Watchers on high serve the Son
who enters into Jerusalem riding on an ass.
Children praise Him with olive branches and palms
and cry out: "To You be glory, O Son of the Most High."

This is the day which the Lord has made a glorious feast,
for His people and for His bride. Behold, His people leap for joy.
All the races and peoples of the earth cry out:
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

God has prepared a feast of joy for the Church His Bride.
See the assemblies of her children exult, singing hosannas.
The praises of the heavenly ones and the earthly ones
resound together and they all say:
"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Glory to the Father who rejoices the Church by sending His Son.
Adoration to the Son who dwells in her, and He gladdens her people.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who makes her bear fruit,
and prompts her assemblies to offer praise to God.

The prophets go before Him.
The apostles come after Him.
And the young men and the children
acclaim Him with their hosannas.

Zechariah the Prophet prophesied, saying:
"Rejoice, O Daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your King comes to you."

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

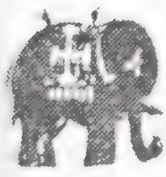
As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them we offer...p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of your mercy...p.8

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



"The Gentle One who was stretched out,
and by the outstretching of his hands
held the utmost bounds of the inhabitable world"

Eucharistic Prayer of the Great Friday of the Crucifixion, Morning Service.
See also, Vol. I p. 41

The Week of the Life-giving Passion

INFORMATION FOR THE SERVICES

1. *This week, instead of the introductory and concluding Trisagion, an appropriate Doxology or Praise is used, proper to the day of even to the particular hour of the day.*

2. *The Common Concluding Prayers:*

   "Lord, Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy..."

   "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise..."

   and not used.

3. *The prayer of the Church concentrates exclusively on Christ and His Passion. There are no services or even hymns or prayers for the Mother of God, or for the Saints, or for the Departed, except, however, on Thursday of the Passover and on Saturday of the Good tidings, on which the Communion of Saints is celebrated. Hence at the Night Vigil and at the Morning Prayer the following are omitted: Mary's Song, Psalm 133: How good and beautiful... with its response, the Cosmic Praise and the Beatitudes, though not on Thursday and Saturday.*

4. *The Gospel text is read from the Harmonized Gospel, as found in the Penquitho, in which the four Gospels are very accurately woven into one ongoing account, a practice of the Syrian Church traced back to Tatian, in the 2nd century. Our chapter and verse references are restricted to the main passages. The common introductory Acclamations and Responses are simplified and the reading is made on a plaintive tune:*

   Reader : To the Lord be glory and on us His graciousness for ever.

   Congregation : Amen.

   Reader : The Holy Gospel according to the Apostle N...the Evangelist N...

In case the reading is from several Gospels, as when the Harmonized Gospel is used, the plural form is used:

The Holy Gospel according to the Apostles and Evangelists.
(No name is mentioned)

The Congregation responds also in the plural form:

May their prayers be with us.

Reader : *At the end of the reading, while tracing the sign of the Cross on the Congregation:*

To our Lord, our adorations.

Congregation : Lord, be gracious to the whole world.

5. *During the whole week no kiss of veneration is offered, neither to the Cross, not to the Book of the Gospel, not to the presiding priest. Peace will be given only during the Night Service of the Resurrection.*

Monday
In the week of the life-giving passion
Evening Prayer

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

Blessed are You, Christ who humbled Yourself for us,
and by Your Passion saved us from untruth.
Receive our service and be gracious to the whole world. 3 *times.*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration the exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God,
of sharing in Your Life-giving Passion.
Grant us to imitate Your humiliation for our sake
and to take pride in Your crucifixion for us,
and to be healed by the scars of sufferings which you bore
for our salvation, and to live by Your death which raises our death,
and we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever.
Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 86 (85) Incline Your ear, Lord, and answer me...

RESPONSE

You who came to the Passion of Your own will
and made the salvation by the Cross,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who came, and by Your peace-offering fulfilled
the mysteries, the prefigurations and the parables,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who revealed before hand to Your apostles
that they would see Your Passion in Jerusalem,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who are God Supreme above all
and who became man of Your own will,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who created us by Your almighty power
and who saved us by Your Cross and Your Passion,
be gracious to all, O God.

To You be praise, O Living One who do not die,
and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.
Be gracious to all, O God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...page 5

RESPONSE
Your Church grieves on account of Your Passion,
but she will rejoice in Your Resurrection, O our Saviour,
as she receives from You the children You give her.

The Church offers thanksgiving to You, Christ,
who came to humiliation, and on Golgotha
were lifted up on the Cross for our salvation.

The Church and her children make supplication
in the name of Your sufferings, O our Saviour.
Shepherd who endured the Passion for us, receive our supplication.

We all who brought about Your death have to face judgement,
but whoever confess You and puts his trust in Your Passion
with the thief will rejoice in Your Kingdom.

Guests who gather for the wedding feast of the Heavenly Bridegroom,
let us light up the lamps of our minds
for we will take our delight with Him.

Praise to the Mighty One, the Strong One who bears the Creation,
whom the wood of the Cross bore for our salvation.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is not subject to passion in His own nature, yet became man and bore the Passion of His own will, out of love for humankind, that He might set us free from our passions and from death, and by the Passion in His own person, annulled the deed of our guilt. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

God who are high and worthy of all honour, in Your Economy You lived among men and You suffered in the flesh for our salvation, though in Your own nature You are without passions. You taught us to cleanse

our souls from evil passions and to purify ourselves from sin by good works and pure thoughts. With the heart of simple people we cry out, "Come in peace, Holy and Saving Passion which delivers us from the passions of sin. Come in peace, Holy and Saving Passion which redeems us from our wrong doing and from the hands of the Evil One. Come in peace, Holy and Saving Passion that shows us the way of peace and salvation. Come in peace, Holy and Saving Passion that heals our sickness and puts an end to our grief."

And now we beseech You, Lord, who suffered for us in the flesh, that You will make us worthy to be clothed in Your Passion, and to bear Your shame, and to be like You in Your humiliation, and to take pride in Your crucifixion, and to have our souls healed by Your Cross. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving such as is due to Your Lordship, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

Isaiah saw Christ in a garment stained with blood
even before He came into the world,
when he prophesied in the Holy Spirit,
"Who is He who comes from Edom, spattered with blood
like one who is treading the winepress?" Halleluia, blessed is He
who bore our diseases and endured the Passion for our sake.

My Beloved had a vineyard of fertile land, on a hill top.
He tilled it and built a fence all round it
and He expected it to bear grapes, but it gave only sour fruit.
He uprooted it and made it waste and called the nations,
and made them the Church, His bride.
And now her children sing praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The vine watered by the living words of the prophets
gave only gall to be offered as drink to its Lord.
He uprooted it and made it a waste and called the nations
and made them the Church, His bride.
And now her children sing praise.
Blessed is He who betrothed the Church, His beloved.

From age to age and for ever... Amen

Zechariah prophesied concerning the Passion of the Uniquely-Beloved
Son who set us free from the sentence pronounced against us,
"What are these wounds which I see in Your hands,
which You received in the house of Your friends?"
Halleluia. Blessed is He who by His Passion
taught us to die to the world and to sin.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Make us worthy, Lord God, to minister before You
in purity of heart and with the fragrance of good works
so that Your Churches clothed in Your love,
strengthened by Your truth and ennobled by Your friendship,
may always glory in Your Passion and take pride in Your crucifixion.

Adorn us with fair behaviour befitting Your marriage feast
that we may enter Your Heavenly Kingdom
and You may be worshipped with one accord
by those of the former and of the middle and of the latter times
who confessed Your Passion and believed in Your Crucifixion,
Christ, hope of our lives and Saviour of humankind.

Second Hymn
Our Saviour told His disciples,
"Behold, we are going to Jerusalem.
And there the people will seize Me.
They will pierce My hands with nails.
I will be beaten and flogged,
but let not your hearts be troubled; I will rise and resurrect.
It is the crucifiers that will be put to shame.
My Beloved Church will rejoice in Me."

Jealousy that at the beginning
caused the death of Abel, the man who had done no wrong,
jealousy consumed the people,
Their leaders, Pharisees and Scribes,
caught in the snare laid by Satan,
took counsel against Jesus to shed His innocent blood.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

In return for the manna You gave in the desert we have given You gall.
In return for the water You made to gush forth from the rock, we gave
You vinegar. We, Your people denied You. We put You to death,
our Lord, and we cried out, "We have no king but Ceasar."
But as Your Church we now confess,
"It is by Your wounds that we are healed."
Lord, we praise You for Your goodness.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The bride I had chosen left Me in hatred. I chose another one.
I made a great feast for her and slaughtered the young calf.
It was not sheep or goats that I offered for the feast.
I made a peace-offering of My Son, My Only One, for her.
And behold she carries Him and distributes Him,
for the life and sanctification of her people.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

Teach us, Lord, to pray and to sing to You with voices full of sorrow.
Not that You have need of them, but that we may be enriched by You,
and our tongues may never cease to praise Your Sovereignty.

Your Passion is a harbour of life for those who love You, O Son of God.
The story of Your death holds blessings for them.
She who had been led away by her Captor
finds salvation in the Passion for her Bridegroom.

The Cross of the Son has grown into a tree.
and its fruit is His gift to us, through His Passion.
From it are plucked fruits of life for the Church.
She who was carried away by her sorrow finds her delight in them.

Beloved, let us offer thanks to the Son, the First born.
Though He is always with the Father, He humbled Himself
and endured the Passion and great disgrace for our sake,
taking on Himself all suffering by His Passion.

Praise to the Hidden Father.
Adoration to the Son who suffered for us.
Thanksgiving to the Life-giving Spirit.
Three persons, three names, one being which cannot be comprehended.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings,
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

Jesus came to the feast to offer Himself
to be a sacrifice for us, offered in His compassion,
that all the Scriptures might be fulfilled
and He be a victim for the sake of Adam,
the sheep that had gone astray from the flock.

High priest and Priest, Lamb, Victim and Sacrifice,
it was good and right that He be offered in sacrifice
for sinners, in His own person. He comes to visit the earth
with His gifts, like the joy of April.

The Uniquely-Beloved Son of God comes with His disciples
to the upper room, to be offered for the sake of sinners,
and to reconcile them with His Father, in the Mystery.
by His own blood, the blood of life.

Glory to You who suffered for us, O Sacrifice of Reconciliation.
Thanksgiving to Your Hidden Father who sent You for our salvation.
To the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.
And on us graciousness and compassion.

Verses before the first reading
Because this generation has gone astray,
there is no faith among their offspring.

Dt	31:16-21	The people's infidelities.
Jos	23: 1-6;14-15	Joshua's farewell address.
Ac	21: 7-14	Agabus' prophecy of Paul's sufferings.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
O Lord, all my sighing is before You.
My groaning never leaves Your presence.

Ph	1:19-29	Life in Christ.

Gospel acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
Because I prepared Myself for suffering
My pain is always before Me.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They conspired and said evil things.
They spoke unjustly against the Most High.
The disciple who betrayed Him ate His bread
and the Master gave His life for the whole world.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt.	20: 17-28	Jesus speaks of His death. The sons of Zebedee.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with grief and sorrow of heart: "Have mercy, Lord! Be gracious to all!"

Christ our God who lowered the heights of Your Majesty to the lowest depth of humiliation in obedience unto death on a cross, to save Adam who had fallen through sin, we beseech You:

Have mercy, Lord! Be gracious to all!

Christ who when You proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom laid bare the dead faith of many who considered themselves as just yet were trees destitute of fruit, because the deeds of faith were not at work in them, we beseech You:

Have mercy, Lord! Be gracious to all!

Christ who by coming in search of the lost sheep, and by laying down Your life for all, reveled the depth of the mystery of Your love for the whole creation, we beseech You:

Have mercy, Lord! Be gracious to all!

Christ who were announced from the beginning by the prophets, these clouds of rain sent to give life to Your vineyard, and in the fulness of time were revealed in truth to the Church, when You set the seal on their oracles by giving Your life for her, we beseech You:

Have mercy, Lord! Be gracious to all!

Concluding Prayer

In Your goodness, Christ our Lord, make us worthy to suffer with You, that we may glory with You, and be led into the light that never fades, we beseech You, hear us, our Lord and be gracious to all, and we will cry three times,

Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

MEDITATION

Service of Protection for the Night

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise Blessed are You, Christ who humbled Yourself for us...p.378

Psalm 4 Answer me when I call, God, Holy Saviour...

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Judge of judges who was condemned, and by His silence freed us from our guilt, to the Saviour who gave His body to blows, and His cheeks to be struck, and paid our debts by His scourging, and put an end to our disgrace by His shame and took on Him our guilt by His crown, and annulled our slaying by His slaying, and put our death to death by His death. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the Prayer of Protection for the Night...

Glory to You, God the Word, Only Son of the Father, who were made like to us in all things except for sin, and walked among us as God and man, as God by Your act of power, as man by Your Passion and Death. In the abundance of Your graciousness, for the sake of guilty Adam, You came today to endure the Passion of Your own will, that You might deliver him from the sentence of judgement on account of his transgression of the commandment. You first fulfilled in Your own person the sign which had been shown by Moses Your servant of old in Egypt. You accomplished this in the company of Your apostles and filled the upper room with the signs and life-giving mysteries of Your holy Church. As You sealed the ancient covenant with a lamb, You inaugurated the new with bread and wine, and gave Your flesh and blood at the Feast of Mysteries and were made both food and drink for the pardon of our sins. You bent Your head to the kiss of the deceiver. You were seized by the people and by Your own humble will You went to shame and the Cross. You entered first for us the court of judgement on the sixth day that You might free us from the punishment and sentence of judgement against us. You were struck on the cheek by an insolent servant, that You might deliver us from the guilt and slavery of sin. You were judged as an evil-doer and you cleansed our guilty race. When You were scourged with lashes by Pilate, the Judge, You paid the penalty of the guilt of the head of our guilty race and by the spitting which You received on Your face from the impure, You put an end to the disgrace of great shame from the face of us all. You were clothed in royal garments in mockery and derision that You might clothe us by holy baptism in the Holy Spirit whom we lost in the Garden by the envy of the deadly Serpent. By Your crown of thorns You uprooted sin and with the reed of derision which You were made to hold, You wrote our names in the Book of Life. You were hung naked on the Cross and by the stripping of Your body You stripped naked and put to shame the Prince of the air, the father of all evil, while You clothed in modesty the nakedness of Adam. Instead of the hand which plucked the fruit and brought death to all generations, You gave Your hands and holy feet to the nails. You drank vinegar and You tasted gall instead of the eating from the death bearing tree. You were reviled with thieves to put off the shame of Adam. You fulfilled in Your own person all those things

which the prophets of Your Father signified of old, when You said on the Cross, Now it is all fulfilled.

And now, Lord and Lover of Humankind who did all these things for us out of love for our race, we beg of You that as we recall Your humiliation beyond telling, and Your willing and innocent sufferings, You will renew Your never- failing graciousness towards us, on this day of the remembrance of Your Saving and Life-giving Passion. Guard Your Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church with Your victorious Cross, both here and everywhere else, that she may celebrate Your Passion with faith, and confess Your humiliation and know You as God of all, in truth, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Beloved, it is with broken hearts but with faith and love
that we recall the sufferings of the Servant of the Lord.
See how He prospers, said the Prophet, how He is exalted
and raised up to the heights, though all were appalled at Him, and
His disfigurement was in human, and He no longer looked like a man.

He grew up like a young plant from a root in a parched ground.
He had no beauty, no glory, nothing in His appearance to attract us.
He was despised as one of the lowest in the sight of men.
A man of pain, tormented and humbled by suffering.
One from whom men turn away their eyes, one reckoned as nothing.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

It was our diseases that He bore, our pains that He carried, while
we counted Him as one crushed, struck by God with affliction. He was
wounded for our rebellions, broken on account of our iniquities.
We were healed by His bruises. He gave Himself up as a peace-offering.
Glory to Him for His humiliation, who is infinite in His being

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

We have all strayed like sheep, each one taking his way.
But God laid upon Him the guilt of us all.
He did not open His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.
Glory to Him who lowered for us the height of His Majesty,
that Adam and his children might inherit life for ever.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your Passion, Our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

The heavenly powers who stand in Your presence are filled with awe,
Lord of all creatures, but those You fashioned with Your hands
out of the dust of the soil make You the target of their mockeries.

Being above the earthly ones, Word and power of the Hidden Father,
In the fulness of time You became a son of man for our sake
that we might share Your life and return to the glory we had lost.

Immortal One, who by Your death made the whole creation
dependent on You, You willed to humble Yourself
to the Passion and the Cross, and by Your suffering
You cancelled the debt incurred by Adam in the Garden.

Adoration and praise to the Father of truth.
Honour and blessing to His Son, the Beloved,
not subject to passion who suffered for our sake.
Glory and shouts of joy to the Holy Spirit
who strengthens us by His power hidden in the Mysteries.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Resurrection,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Look with compassion on Your house, and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

The Lord of Feasts and Seasons came to the Feast
and offered Himself in sacrifice for the sake of sinners.
It was right and good for Him to offer Himself to the Father,
for without His blood there was no return
for those of His flock who had been taken captive.

He is the Priest and the Offering which is offered,
the High Priest, the Head in whom there is no blemish,
Offerer and Receiver and Lord of sacrifices,
the Slain Lamb and the Priest who receives all sacrifices.

He is beautiful, as He stands in the Feast,
the Fount of Life for all those who gather around Him.
With the Lord, the Feast is filled with joy for those who look at Him,
just as the earth rejoices when April has come.

Praise to the Father who sent His Son for the salvation of all.
Adoration to the Son who exposed the deceit of His persecutors.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who confounded them
in the eyes of the nations and who chose the Church
to sing His praise for all generations.

Praise Blessed are You, Christ, who humbled Yourself for us...p.378

MEDITATION

MONDAY IN THE WEEK OF THE LIFE-GIVING PASSION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise Blessed are You, Christ who humbled Yourself for us...p.378

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer

Pure, Spotless Lamb whom wicked people led to the slaughter and You remained silent and quiet in Your humiliation, and by Your sacrifice You bore the sin of the world, grant us, our Lord, to share in Your humiliation, in Your Passion and in Your death, that we may offer a sacrifice of praise and rejoice on the day of Your Resurrection now and always and for ever. Amen.

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

With the Passion of Christ, the Church and her people
are wrapped in suffering, that they may rejoice in His Resurrection.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

Make us worthy, Lord, to suffer Your Passion,
that we may rejoice with You when You come into Your Kingdom.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

Prophecy spoke through the mouth of Caiaphas, "It is expedient
that the Christ should die so that the whole people may not perish."
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

The Son of the King set His face resolutely to suffer the Passion
for the sake of Adam, to lead him back into Paradise.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.
Come, let us all suffer the Passion of Christ,
and we will confess and say, "Son of the Good, You suffered for us."
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

Come, let us all suffer the Passion of Christ,
and we will confess and say, "Son of the Good, You suffered for us."
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

Praise to Your goodness, O Good One, who came to us,
and You endured the Passion for our sake.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Word, simple and spiritual in His own nature, who of His own will came in the form of a human body, to renew to His own likeness those who are of dust and flesh, and to make strangers and exiles children of His own race, drawing to Himself those who were far off. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

God the Father, Lord and Maker of all creatures both intelligible and sensible, because of Your ineffable love for humankind, You planted in the Creation a spiritual vineyard, Israel the dear and beloved, and You enclosed it with a hedge, the Law of Moses. When the time came for fruits, You sent Your servants the holy prophets to the labourers, that through their hands they might send You and offer spiritual fruits. But the labourers seized them. One they drove out, another they beat, another they stoned, and another they killed. Again You sent other servants, more than before, and they did the same to them. At last You sent to them Your Beloved Son, that when seeing Him they might honour Him and offer Him the fruits of reverence. But when they saw Him and recognised that He was the Lord, they laid hands on Him and cast Him out of the city, and crucified Him and killed Him and He was laid in a grave. For all this, You uprooted the old vine and You planted instead of it a new vineyard, the Church, the congregation of all peoples. You guarded it with the Law of the Gospel and You strengthened it with the high tower of the Cross. You entrusted it to the apostles, evangelists and priests that through them it might offer spiritual fruits fitting to Your Godhead. The Anointed Stone which was rejected by the

chiefs of Your people was made the headstone of the corner. You made it the foundation of unity, bringing together those in heaven and those on earth, and one people with another, the chosen ones and the nations.

Therefore we beg of You, Gracious Lord, make us all into this new vineyard which will give to You fruits of righteousness, fruits of the Spirit. And may we be worthy of receiving the full day's wage of the labourers who worked in Your blessed vineyard, whether from morning till evening, or only from the eleventh hour. And let us drink also the spiritual wine, at the feast which is prepared for those who followed Your Beloved Son. Through Him and with Him we offer praise and thanksgiving, to You, Father of all, and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Lord of the vineyard descended to the labourers who withheld the fruits of reverence and who killed the just and the prophets.
For the Son they prepared the Cross on Golgotha, as for a criminal.
Glory to Him who of His own will suffered the passion and endured death and then turned to the nations that they might bear fruits.
Behold, they offer praise to Him.

The order of the prophets rejoices in You, our Lord,
because You revealed the truth of their words.
Of Your own will You submitted to whatever was done to You.
You endured sufferings and the Cross and were reviled by the people,
on account of our mean race which had been captured by the Evil One,
out of jealousy. And You set us free by Your humiliation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The vineyard of My Beloved was planted in fertile soil.
He ploughed it deep and enclosed it with a wall.
He adorned it with beautiful and diverse fruits.
But instead of sweet grapes it gave Him gall and vinegar.
For it He was crushed, covered with shame and laughed to scorn.
Instead of it He planted a new vine giving fruits of life eternal.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Consumed by the flames of jealousy towards Jesus
because there was such great beauty in Him, priests, scribes
and Pharisees sought to rid the earth of Him who tries minds and hearts.
The wicked turned to Him and plotted against Him. Constant watch
was kept over Him and they sent false witnesses to cause His death.

Verses before the first reading
You brought a vine out of Egypt and drove away the nations to plant it.
You cleared the ground for it and made her strike roots
and You caused her to fill the land.

Is 5:1-7 The vineyard of the Beloved.
1 P 4:12-16 Be glad if you are made to share Christ's sufferings.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
Why have you broken down its fence?
All those who pass by trample upon it.
The wild boar devours it. The wild beasts make it their pasture.

1 Th 2 : 13-20 The word of God at work in the believers...
3 : 11-13 In all distress and affliction, be comforted by faith.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Because their shoots are from the vine of Sodom
and their bunches from the groves of Gomorrah,
their grapes are sour and their clusters bitter.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 21:33-46 The parable of the wicked tenants of the vineyard.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

At this time of the night, let us praise and adore Christ
who saved us by His passion and His humiliation. 3 *times*

Our Father in heaven...

Psalm 80 (79) O Shepherd of Israel, hear us...

RESPONSE
Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us the watchfulness of the angelic powers,
that we may be worthy to enter Your feast of joy
and sing praise to You at Your coming.

Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us the watchfulness of the wise virgins,
that with them we may enter the feast of joy
and sing praise to You at Your coming.

Lord of all, in Your graciousness,
give us the faith of the thief at Your right hand,
that with him we may be worthy of Your mercy,
the forgiveness of sins, at Your coming.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the True Bridegroom who opens His radiant marriage chamber to the wise and gives joy at His spiritual wedding feast to those who wait for Him, who at His glorious banquet fills His guests with delight, yet sees whether they are clothed in the wedding garment. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

God the Word, by Your manifestation in the flesh You revealed to us in parables the judgement of the world to come, especially by the Heavenly King who summons the nations to His marriage feast and invites all races and peoples to His heavenly resting place. And now, O God Most High and True Bridegroom, we beseech Your Majesty that when the expected joy comes to the virgins who were waiting for You, and the sorrow which is kept for the foolish virgins is at our door, coming unexpectedly, at the silent hour of Your coming, when the five wise virgins

wait in darkness, at the hour of Your manifestation, when the five wise virgins who were prepared are found worthy to enter Your marriage chamber, and the five careless ones stay in shame outside the door, when You separate the foolish from the wise, and choose the wise who are in the light and reject the foolish ones who are in darkness, at that hour of fear and trembling. Lord, do not make us stand outside the door of Your marriage chamber in shame, do not put out the lamps of our souls at Your banquet, but at the hour of Your coming, in Your graciousness, make us worthy of being found clothed with the unsullied garments of fair conduct, that we may welcome You, as all true believers and devotees, with joy, without being put to shame. And we will offer praise and honour to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
God will come and will not delay.

Beloved, now is the testing of our faith.
Let us see that each one of us is ready with oil in his lamp
to go out and meet the Lord with joy. When He sees
our lamps lighted He will make us enter the feast of lights.

Lord, my God, enlighten my darkness.

How wretched is he whose lamp is darkened by the deeds of lust,
for this place is holy and darkness has no place in it.
Enlighten us with Your light, our Lord,
and gladden us all with Your tender love.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Let us go with lighted lamps to meet Jesus the Mighty King.
His Resurrection is coming, the Joyous Passover is at hand.
Let us rouse our spirits and purify our thoughts to please
the Bridegroom, that we may enter His bridal feast
and not be excluded from the blessedness promised to the saints,
Halleluia, blessed are they who see Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Passion of the Son is for us a harbour of life
where we rest from the labours of the world.
In it the labours of our fast come to fruition and with it
come all blessings. Churches and monasteries rejoice in it
for baptism is given, with the renewing power of the Holy Spirit
which brings forth spiritual beings.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross:
"Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing."

This night, our race set free from untruth offers thanksgiving,
and enters the silence and rests in the calm of the Passover of Life,
the harbour of peace, for every one who labours for righteousness.

This night, lights are shining, the glorious rays of baptism.
We praise Him who in is His graciousness has entered us in the Book,
under His name, and has made us His brothers, from the water.

The Passion of the Son of God is a harbour of life for him
who contemplates it and considers what it shows and teaches us,
all good deeds, love, graciousness and good hope.

This night, when Jesus our King gathers us in the harbour
of His Passion, let us show love to our neighbours that we may be heirs
to the Kingdom with the just who laboured in His Kingdom.

Let us offer praise to the Bridegroom who rejoices
because all peoples will rejoice with Him at His wedding feast.
And for the sake of this, to encourage us to rejoice with Him.
He made for us the parable of the virgins.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings,
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

The Passion of the Son has come, sons of the Church of believers,
let us go to meet Him, watch for Him and welcome Him, wrapped
in grief, keeping vigil in holiness, a watch with discernment,
in which we wash the evil of our souls and remove all stains,
that we may be pure and holy on the great day of His coming.

Entering the Passion after the Fast we are close to the harbour of life.
Come, let us be vigilant and shining, pure and earnest.
Let there be no grudge, no jealousy and neither spite nor resentment.
Let us serve one another spiritually, keep watch in holiness
and pray for all, as our Lord prayed for us in His Passion.
Blessed is He who came to humiliation for our weak race.

The Fast is completed and the Passion of the Only Son of God has come,
the children of the Church of believers, sing praise tonight.
This night is harbour where we enter into rest.
Our evil deeds are washed away. Our stains are cleansed.
How many blessings come to us this night, beloved!
How we should thank Christ who comes to us with His joy!
Blessed is He who calls us to the harbour
and by His Passion brings joy to those who are sad.

Glory to You who are not subject to passion yet endured
the Passion for our sake. Glory to You, Immortal One,
who give us life by Your death. To You be praise
from those who are subject to passions, whom You freed
from their passions by Your Passion. All over the world,
tonight, people sing praise and offer thanksgiving to You
for Your humiliation.

Verses before the first reading
Light our lamps, Lord our God,
and enlighten our darkness.

Isaiah	61:10-11 62:1-5	A song of thanksgiving for God's wonderful salvation
1 P	1:13-25	Be alert and set your hope on the blessings to come.
1 Co	7:25-38	The whole frame of this world is passing away.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
with joy and gladness we will go.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
And we will enter the temple of the King.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mathew 25 : 1-13 The parable of the ten virgins.
Luke 12 : 35-40 Watchfulness while awaiting the Master's return.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Praise

At this time of the night, let us praise and adore Christ
who saved us by His passion and His humiliation. *3 times.*

Our Father in heaven...

Psalm 43 (42) Vindicate my cause, O God, and save me....

RESPONSE
The vineyard of my Beloved is fertile.
It was renowned among the nations.
But instead of fruits of faith
its branches bore sour grapes.

The stock of Abraham the Just.
The offshoot of Isaac the Sacrificed.
The branch of Jacob the Righteous.
The grapes of Moses the Lawgiver.

They made a mockery of Him and condemned Him to death
Praise to Him who did not resist those who lifted Him up
on the Cross. Blessed is He who betrothed the Church to Himself
with unfailing love and devotion, as the prophet foretold.

Today our Saviour revealed to His disciples
that they would be in great distress on account of His passion,
and sadness would fill their hearts.

Today Judas the traitor parted from the company of the disciples.
He went to sell his Master
and he purchased a rope for himself.

Crafty priests assembled to take counsel against our Saviour
to put Him to death iniquitously,
who bestowed all goodness on them.

Glory to the Father.
Thanksgiving to the Son who proceeds from Him.
A shout of joy to the Holy Spirit,
in remembrance of the Passion of our Saviour.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to God the Word, who was knit together with the flesh to put to death the unruliness of the flesh. He who is without passions by His divine nature, calmed the passions of our human nature, and with His Cross removed the sting of Death; and in His goodness bestowed life on the race of mortal beings. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God. You were revealed as the Uniquely-Beloved Son of the Father, and seen as the pledge of the Holy Spirit, but when You were made known to Your people as the Bridegroom of Truth, they received You with insults, and made ready the Cross and the Passion for You, as You had made known before hand to Your disciples. Pride stirred up their chiefs and high priests, and aroused the scribes and all the people against You. Caiaphas said of You that it is expedient that one man die. Annas and his company took counsel concerning You, and they gave a bribe to the disciple who betrayed You. They raised a clamour against the people who believed

in You, saying, "This man deceives the people and breaks the Sabbath." They went to Pilate to accuse You, that You said that You were the king. They made ready the wood for Your crucifixion and forged the nails to pierce You. He who knows all hidden things knew all these things. He was prepared for suffering and mockery. He gave His back to the smiters and His cheeks to the blows. He did not turn away His face from the shame of filthy spittle. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter and did not murmur. Like a sheep before the Shearer He was silent and did not speak.

When Your Church, Lord, remembers all the things which Your love endured from wicked men, she recognises that You received them and endured them for her sake. She gives thanks for Your Passion and worships Your Cross, she takes pride in Your crucifixion and she kisses Your wounds. From Your death life comes to her. By You salvation is bestowed upon her. Your living blood was poured on the Cross to quench her thirst. Your holy body You offered at the supper for food. Water flowed from Your side to cleanse her. And now, in memory of Your Life-giving Passion she beseeches You, forgive the sins of her people in Your compassion, pardon their transgressions in Your graciousness, and in Your goodness blot out their viciousness. Bestow on them Your blessings, that with all those who have confessed You and have put their hope in You, and await Your manifestation, we may offer praise, thanksgiving and adoration to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *Selected Stanzas*

The vine which Moses led out of Egypt with mighty works and
prodigies, He planted in fertile land. Its roots extended up to the
sea coast, its offshoots reached out to the rivers, and its brancheswere
a screen covering the heavens. Then the Lord came seeking goodwine,
but it gave only vinegar and He uprooted it from the vineyard.

People of Jerusalem and Judah, judge between Me and My vineyard.
What have I not done for the vine I planted? I chose a fertile land
and tilled it. I pruned it and watered it and made it grow.
I waited for the grapes to ripen, but it gave only sour grapes.
I expected them to do what is good, but I see only bloodshed.
I expected justice and peace, but I hear only cries of distress.

Who has ever seen a king becoming a servant?
And then coming to humiliations, to exalt His servants?
And He endured even receiving blows from the wicked.
Praise to Him who willed to be condemned by His servants
Halleluia,halleluia,who by His Passion and Death
saves us from deceit and untruth.

Our Lord visited them, but they had become blind
and they did not recognize Him.
In His graciousness He inclined His compassion towards them.
He did not reject the Law given to them by His Father.
He strengthened it, and fulfilled it and perfected it.
Halleluia, halleluia. Praise to His goodness who so loved our race.

O the wonder of God who lowered Himself to the dust,
and was pleased to give it life and to dignify it with freedom.
And He gave up His Son for its sake, to show His love.
But instead of honouring Him they reviled Him and put Him to shame.
Halleluia, halleluia. O that they had looked in awe and silence
at Him who abased Himself!

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

In His graciousness the Lord of the Creation came from His place,
to do away with the malediction incurred by Adam and Eve.
He put on our body and received the nails, the spear and the whip,
to set us free from our enslavement to sin.

Beloved, let us confess the Son, the Firstborn,
who is eternally with His Father, yet humbled Himself,
and for our sake endured sufferings and shameful disgrace.
May we be wrapped in suffering by His Passion.

On this Feast, comes to the sacrifice
He who is high priest by the will of the Father.
And He delivers Himself into the hands of the wicked
who get hold of Him, to be a victim for the impure,
that He may purify all by His sacrifice.

In the Garden Adam was deprived of his glory
because he dared to break the commandment.
In the Garden our Lord prayed for him that his sin be effaced
and it was to the thief, in the place of Adam,
that the promise was made by His Lord.

Glory to You, Lord, who for the sake of Adam
endured suffering and contempt, and by Your Passion
saved Your Church from deceit and untruth. And now,
she sings praise to You by the mouths of her children.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Cross,
hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Look with compassion on Your house, and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

In the house of feasting You changed water into good wine.
They drank the wine but when You were thirsty they gave You vinegar.
You multiplied the bread but in the place of bread they gave You gall.
They received all good things but returned only evil to You.

In the sight of all You opened the eyes of the blind,
but they, in the court, insulted You and made You an object of scorn.
By Your word You cured the withered hand, but they, rashly
stretched forth their hands and struck You in the face.

Your teaching came like a gentle rain on their assemblies
but they did not wish to be enlightened by Your word.
The rain fell upon barren land and caused
only thorns to grow for the Master of the field.

Our Lord, wondrous praise to You from all mouths.
Who endured suffering and disgrace from the insolent.
Adoration to Your Father who sent You to us out of graciousness.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit. Trinity, one God!

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
You are a God who works wonders
and You manifest Your works to the nations.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Mt 22:1-14 The parable of the Wedding Feast.

MEDITATION

Morning Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

At this time of morning, we confess You and we adore You
Christ who saved us by Your Passion and Your humiliation. *3 times.*

Glory to You, our Lord. All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

Opening Prayer Make us worthy, Lord our God,
of sharing in Your Saving Passion.
Grant us to imitate Your humiliation for our sake
and to take pride in Your Cross which You carried for our salvation
and to live by Your death.
And we will always glorify You who have given us new life.
and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 51 *As here below*
Be gracious to us, O God, because of Your goodness.
Because of Your infinite graciousness blot out our sins.

Again and again wash us of our guilt.
Make us clean of our sins.
We acknowledge our faults.
We are always aware of our sins.

We have sinned against You, against You truly.
We have done what is evil in Your sight.
Your judgements are right.
Your sentence is justified.
We have been evil from the time we were born.
From the time of our birth we have been in sin.

But You take Your delight in the truth.
Make then known to us the secrets of Your wisdom.
Sprinkle us with Your hyssop and we shall be clean.
Wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Fill us with joy and gladness
and our bones which are crushed shall rejoice.
Turn away Your face from our sins
and wipe out all our faults.

Create in us a pure heart, O God,
and renew Your Good Spirit within us.
Do not cast us away from Your presence
nor deprive us of Your Holy Spirit.

Restore to us the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen us with Your Glorious Spirit,
that we may teach the wicked Your way
and sinners may return to You.

Spare our life, O God, God of our salvation
and our tongues shall praise Your righteousness.
Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall sing Your praises.

You do not take pleasure in sacrifices.
You are not appeased by burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice that pleases You is a humble spirit.
A broken heart, O God, You will not spurn...

In Your goodness deal well with Your people
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then You will be well pleased
with fair sacrifices, whole burnt-offerings...

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
You who are above all kings,
and above the judges who condemned You to death,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who by nature are above suffering
yet suffered for us in the flesh,
be gracious to all , O God.

You who are hidden and concealed in Your being
and of Your own will suffered for our sake,
be gracious to all , O God.

You who suffered for our salvation
in order to save us from suffering,
be gracious to all , O God.

You who are Judge of all
yet came to be judged in the place of Adam,
be gracious to all , O God.

Judge whom the judges have judged,
do not judge us with a strict judgement,
but be gracious to all , O God.

When you will come in the glory of Your Kingdom,
make us to rejoice with Your saints,
and be gracious to all , O God.

Psalm 63
O God, you are our God, we long for You,

Our spirits thirst for You, our bodies pine for You,
like a dry, parched land thirsting for water.

We look to You, truly, to behold Your power and Your glory.

Your graciousness is better than life.
Our lips shall sing Your praise.

We will praise You in our life.
We will raise our hands in Your name.

Our hearts are filled as with marrow and fat.
Our lips utter praises. Our mouths sing glory.

We remember You even on our bed,
our thoughts are on You throughout the night.

You have been our help.
on the shadow of Your wings is our protection.

Our spirits follow You. Your right hand upholds us...

To You belongs the praise, O God.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
Christ God, who by Your Passion have bestowed
on our feeble race to become free from passions,
we have come early into Your presence, be gracious to all, O God.

Christ God, who by nature are above suffering and death
and who suffered in the flesh for our sake,
we have come early into Your presence, be gracious to all, O God.

Christ God, who came to fulfil the mysteries
and the signs and symbols shadowed forth for us,
we have come early into Your presence, be gracious to all, O God.

Christ our God, who offered Yourself in sacrifice
to God the Father to give life to Adam and his children,
we have come early into Your presence, be gracious to all, O God.

You, who by Your passion and death for our sake
delivered us from untruth and taught us to die to sin,
we have come early into Your presence, be gracious to all, O God.

Praise for Your sufferings, Jesus our Saviour, who by them,
as Lover of Humankind, put an end to our sufferings due to sin,
we have come early into Your presence, be gracious to all, O God.

Psalm 19

The heavens proclaim the glory of God
and the sky shows forth the work of His hands.

Day unto day pours forth the discourse.
Night unto night makes known the message,
without speech, without words, and no voices are heard,
yet their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

He pitched a tent in them for the sun,
which is like a bridegroom coming from the bridal chamber
and rejoices like a warrior to run its course.
He comes forth from one end of heaven,
His setting is in the other end
and nothing is hidden from His heat.

The law of the Lord is faultless, it refreshes the mind.
The testimony of the Lord is trustful
and it gives wisdom to the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
His commands are pure, they enlighten the eyes.

To revere the Lord is holy and He is to be revered for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.
They are more desirable than gold, more than precious stones,
and sweeter than honey, honey dripping from the comb,
Your servants are enlightened by them
and in them they find great reward.

Yet who can understand his faults?
Cleanse us from the hidden ones.
Keep Your servants from the wrong-doers
lest they come to rule over us.

Purify us from our sins,
that the words of our mouths
and the thoughts of our hearts
may be well pleasing to You, Lord,
our Helper and our Saviour.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE

O the wonder and marvel! Our Saviour remains silent and quiet
while wicked people devise to put Him to death iniquitously.
Come, all you peoples, let us bow down and adore Him.

She who had been made the Bride put the Bridegroom to death.
In return for the good things He bestowed on her she condemned Him
as a guilty man. Come, all you peoples, let us bow down and adore Him.

Judas the slayer, consumed by avarice and jealousy,
conspired with the crucifiers to deliver the Innocent One to them.
Come all you people, let us bow down and adore Him.

The Lord of the whole creation came to the Passion of His own will
for the sake of guilty Adam, to restore him to his former glory.
Come, all you peoples, let us bow down and adore Him.

Hymn for God's victory. Prayer for Deliverance Is 42: 10-13; 45:8.

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Let His praise resound from the ends of the earth.
Let the sea and all that it holds sing His praise,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

Let the desert and the cities raise their voice,
the villages where Kedar dwells.
Let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy,
let them shout from the top of the mountains.
Let them give glory to the Lord
and let the people of the islands voice His praise.

The Lord goes forth, a mighty hero,
like a man of war He arouses His ardour.
He shouts - Yes, He raises the war cry.
He shows himself mighty against His foes...

Shower, O heavens, from above.
Let the skies rain down the Just One.
Let the earth open and salvation sprout forth.
Let justice also spring up which I, the Lord, shall create.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
Your graciousness, O our Saviour,
calls our assembly to recall Your glorious sufferings.
Make us also rejoice in the new life at the heavenly bridal feast.
You are blessed, Lord God.

May we be united with You, suffering with You in Your Passion,
that we all may rejoice in Your Resurrection,
and You may acknowledge us before Your Father.
You are blessed, Lord God.

The Church grieves over Your Passion and Your Crucifixion.
Rejoice her on the day of Your Resurrection, our Lord,
who by Your Cross became a place of refuge for her.
You are blessed, Lord God.

May Your Death be her protection, to be saved from the Evil One.
And may the mockeries You endured in Your own person
be a beverage of life for all those who come to drink from You.
You are blessed, Lord God.

Our Lord, receive our service and be reconciled by our prayers.
And may Your graciousness be with our assembly
which offers worship to You with love.
You are blessed, Lord God.

Psalm 2
Why this tumult among the nations,
among peoples this agitation?
They arise the kings of the earth
and with the princes they make common cause,
against the Lord and against His Anointed,
"Let us break their fetters,
and throw off their yoke from us."

He who sits in the heavens laughs,
the Lord laughs them to scorn.
Then He will speak to them with anger,
in His fury He will strike them with terror.

It is I who have been anointed His King,
upon Sion His holy mountain.
Let Me proclaim the decree of the Lord.
The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son,
this day I have begotten You.
Ask from Me and I will give,
the nations will be Your patrimony
and the ends of the earth Your possession.
You will break them with a rod of iron,
shatter them like a potter's jar".

And now, O kings, understand,
take warning, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with reverence,
and live in trembling, and pay homage to Him,
lest He be angry and your assembly perish,
for suddenly His anger may blaze.

Blessed are all who trust in Him.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
Today wicked people assemble to conspire and they plot treacherously against the Holy One in whom there is no evil.

Today He who gives life to the dead is walking along the streets and those who see Him plot against Him in their hearts.

Today in the court an infuriated assembly conspires to condemn and proclaim guilty the Innocent in whom there is no evil.

Today people thirsting for blood take counsel to destroy Jesus, the True Priest, by condemning Him to death.

Today the High Priest comes to the sacrifice by the will of the Father and delivers Himself to the insolent who will kill Him.

Today let us all adore and praise our Lord Jesus, and offer thanksgiving to Him who suffered to save us.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who is glorious in His great power and adorable in His great humility, to Him who surpasses everything by His glory and humbled Himself below everything out of love, to Him who holds everything by the power of His word yet was arrested because His compassion willed it. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of morning...

Christ our God, who fulfilled in Your own person all the mysteries, and changed the way of foretelling proper to the stammering speech of the law, you did away with the obscurity of the Old Testament by an interpretation which makes the hearing profitable. You were patient, in the midst of the strife stirred up by the scribes like a stormy sea, and before the priests who fell on You like a flood. Gentle One, You received gall from the Devil who was consumed with envy, until the time You crushed the Serpent with the foot of Your Cross. Strong One, You surrendered Yourself to be seized. You lowered Yourself, and were taken captive. Because You willed to become man, You were imprisoned. Because You willed to put on a body,

You were flogged. Great One, as a womb contained You, Golgotha received You. As a manger sufficed for You, a tomb was opened for You. Harbour of rest, You endured sufferings for us without a sound of murmur, and You bore the Cross without a cry. Life-giver, You died of Your own will and You suffered contempt, You were laid in a tomb because You became one like us. O the shame, that the rulers saw You and did not recognize You! That those who held the world in their power did not come to know You! To You, God who cannot be comprehended, we offer this fragrant incense, and we entreat Your compassion to guard with care Your human nature which You love, Your Holy Church saved by Your Life-giving Passion. Because You are gracious and overflowing with goodness, we offer praise and thanks-giving through Your hands and with You, to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

The glorious day of the Passover of the Lamb of God draws near,
which Moses made the people to celebrate in Egypt, at night.
Let us take our lamps and go to meet Him
who came to save the Creation by His blood.
Blessed is Christ who in His love exalted His Church,
and made her celebrate the Commemoration of His Passion and Death,
halleluia, halleluia, by which she is saved.

I heard that two brides lighted their lamps
and went forth to meet our Saviour, the Glorious Bridegroom.
One went with swords and lathis, the other with olive branches.
The mob led by Judas went out to put the Son to death.
The Church went out to praise Him for His great victory,
halleluia, halleluia, and now she sings praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

In which sufferings shall I glory, cries out the Church,
if not the sufferings of God who was crucified for me?
The just and the prophets and the saints have suffered,
likewise the apostles and the martyrs and all pastors.

Through their sufferings they gained life for themselves.
As for me I have been saved by the sufferings of my Lord,
halleluia, halleluia, who offered Himself in sacrifice for me.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Come, Beloved, let us praise the Son of God who invites us
to His Father's house, that we may enter and find our delight in it.
Let us go with purity, and with hearts sharing in His sufferings,
that we may be glorified with Him. Let us keep our lamps lighted,
and wrap ourselves in a garment of love, that we may rejoice
in His salvation, halleluia, halleluia, and sing praise to Him.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Life-giving Lamb of the Godhead, High Priest of our faith,
Jesus Christ, You emptied Yourself and You took the form of a servan
and became man, in truth, though You did not cease from being God.

Bestow on us, by this sweet incense which we present to You,
to share in Your passion and to follow You in Your humiliation,
that with You also we may be glorified and reach with joy
the day of Your Resurrection, and take our delight in Your Kingdom,
with all Your saints, Christ our God for ever.

Second Hymn

Your splendour fills the Fiery Ones with trembling
and You are made to stand in the court of judgement!
You whom the Winged Creatures bless and on whose back is Your
throne, the people's priests treat shamefully and condemn to death.
And You endure it like an innocent lamb for our salvation.

The Apostle teaches us every day that we have to love one another,
as Christ taught us, who gave His life for us.
Let us become like our Lord in this
and return to Him what He has lent to us.
Where there is love of neighbour, evil cannot enter.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Wicked people acted treacherously against the Lord of all.
Prompted by envy they collected silver pieces and gave them
to the Iscariot, to deliver to them, the Fount of Life.
Full of impudence they made Him the target of their mockeries
and then shed His blood! But the whole world is pardoned by it.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The envious saw Christ making wonders and miracles with power.
He healed the sick and made them whole.
He strengthened the weak and made them stand. But the wicked
requited Him with evil: contempt, shame and mockeries.
Glory to His goodness, that endured all this for us.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

The wicked plot against the just.
They gnash their teeth against Him.

Gn 4 : 3-16 The murder of Abel.
1 Jn 3 : 7-18 Be not like Cain.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul.

They have raised their hand against their neighbours
and they have broken the Convenant.
Anger darkens their faces. It is a fire in their hearts.

Heb. 11:1-4 The faith of Abel.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, Halleluia, Halleluia.
They are like lions roaring after their prey,
like the young lion lying in hiding.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 23:29-36 Indictment of the Scribes and Pharisees

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

Our Saviour renounced great honour when He was brought low for us,
leaving the heavenly ones and their glory
and suffering contempt and great shame for our sake
from the wicked people who crucified Him.

And now He comes suddenly as one endowed with great power.
He has gathered His flock near Golgotha.
And behold! They have come to hear the story of His sufferings.
The thirst of His sheep can be quenched only by His Passion.

The scribes of the nation laid hands on Jesus.
The dry leaf came up against the Flame,
the dust of the soil rose against the Great Ocean, how perchance
it could dry it up, the Watercourse that rejoices the whole earth.

He saw Adam lying prostrate in Sheol and He put greedy Death
to shame. He passed furtively beside the guards.
And as He entered to put an end to the condemnation
and stood in the midst of them all, they awoke to His presence.

Glory to the Exalted One who saved His image
by the passion which He suffered for us,
and He endured contempt and shame at the hands of the impure.
Let us adore Him who is not subject to passion, yet suffered
the passion for us. Let us praise His Father and His Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings,
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

God lowered Himself to humiliation to save Adam and his children.
Wicked people full of deceit, a brood of vipers, conspired against Him,
but harmed themselves by incurring His judgement.

Our Saviour was remaining silent and calm,
even though the mob clamoured for His death.
Beloved, who would not grieve? Who would not weep
seeing the Judge of all, innocent and yet condemned?

Praise to You from Your flock which You redeemed
by Your precious blood. Glory to Your Father who sent You.
A shout of joy to the Holy Spirit. And let compassion
and graciousness be poured forth on us at all times.

Praise

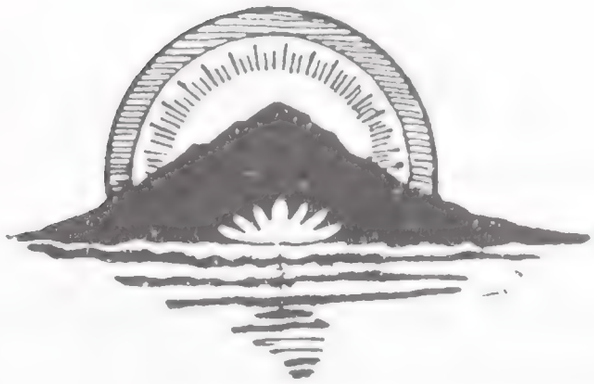
Blessed are You Christ, who humbled Yourself for us,
and by Your passion saved us from untruth.
Receive our service and be gracious to the whole world. *3 times.*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

MEDITATION



Service of the Sixth Hour
on the days of the life-giving passion

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

At midday we confess You and we praise You
Christ who saved us by Your Passion and Your humiliation. 3 *times.*

Praise to You, Our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

Psalms

Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**
82 (81)	38 (37)	41 (40)	55 (54) : 1-15

RESPONSE
The Heir of the vineyard came to seek fruits from the labourers
but they plotted to put Him to death.

My Beloved had a vineyard of fertile land on a hilltop,
but instead of grapes it bore sour fruits.

The vine which received the sweetness
of the words of the prophets gave gall to her Lord.

Sinners plotted the crucifixion of the Innocent One,
they prepared the Cross for the Lord of all.

They made a clamour against Jesus, the wicked high priests,
the priests, the scribes and the Pharisees.

Blessed are You who in Your compassion gave us the baptism
from Your side by which we are purified from our sins.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the True Shepherd who suffered to be beaten when the sheep had scattered from His flock. Praise to the All-powerful who suffered to be held prisoner that He might deliver us from the power of the Enemy. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of midday...

Life-giving Word, who can sufficiently praise Your Economy of Salvation? Who can describe the depth of Your love for humankind? Even the awesome Winged Creatures lower their eyes to avoid seeing Your rejected state, and the Fiery Ones hide their faces with their wings when they glorify Your Lordship. In Your graciousness You willingly suffered humiliation and disgrace, You endured beatings, mockeries, contempt and injuries from the foolish and from the bold. While You are the Lord and Maker of all You were at the meal as the servant, that You might bring low the pride of the evil ones. You fell on Your face in prayer before Your Father to raise us above the temptations of the Devil.

While You are all-powerful and inaccessible in heaven with Your Father Your perfidious disciple Judas sold You for a few pieces of silver, that we might be bought back from sin. By Your saving blood You redeemed us who were held in sin by Satan and Death. They laid hands on You, the impure and a band of wicked people. Then Your disciples, friends and companions abandoned You and fled. Then the wicked led You to the tribunal and put You in prison and You allowed Yourself to be judged by Pilate. You received a blow from a servant, to set us free from the bondage to sin. You were reviled and we exalted, You suffered and You saved us, You died and You gave us life.

Therefore while we are astounded at Your humiliation full of wonder and Your ineffable condescension, we say with awe and thanksgiving, "Oh, the saving sufferings which put an end to our sufferings! Oh, these

little drops of blood by which our wounds are healed!" We confess Your Passion, we worship Your Cross, we exalt Your humiliation for our sake. And we beseech You and make supplication to You, Christ our God, that You keep watch over Your Church redeemed by Your life-giving blood. Grant her to suffer with You in Your passion, to be life You in Your humiliation and to meet You with an open face, and offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Come, beloved, let us all wrap ourselves in the sufferings
which save the Creation. Let us call upon Him with tears, as we say,
"Our Lord, by Your Passion which You suffered for our sake,
heal our sufferings and forgive our debts."

Who would not prepare for the Great Passion with special labours?
The Son of God endured suffering and reviling for our sake,
Let us suffer with Him on the day of His Passion,
that we may rejoice with Him on the day of His Resurrection.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

"By Your Passion, now I am saved," says the Church of believers,
"And my children take their delight in Your body
and rejoice in Your blood. They offer a new praise to You
who lowered Yourself to suffer for us".

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

"By Your Passion, our Lord, my children are liberated,"
cries out the Church of believers. "And I also glory
in Your Passion by night and by day, for it is the fortress
that protects me, at all times against the Evil One and his powers."

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

Your goodness prompted You to clothe us in Your image,
Adam the creature of dust, and again it prompted You,
to put on his body in order to suffer for us, and make him return
to his former place, from where he had been made to depart.

Who would not stand in prayer and prostrate in supplication
when we see the Son of God praying and prostrating?
He shows His graciousness to those who pray for graciousness,
that we may be encouraged to pray.

As Your graciousness was enkindled You left Your place,
to give life to Adam who dared to transgress Your command.
Out of love You lowered Yourself to endure sufferings,
that we might be freed from all sufferings.

You mixed good wine and gave it to them.
You mixed it and gave it at Cana,
but in exchange of it they mixed gall,
the wicked people who were thirsty of Your blood.

Praise to You, Good Lord and God long-suffering,
who suffered for our sake, enduring the passion
and the crucifixion, that we might have life.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings,
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

Let the just who prefigured Your mysteries
and the prophets who foreshadowed Your death,
and the martyrs who were put to death for Your sake,
ask mercy for Your flock redeemed by Your life-giving Cross,
that we may be protected against the Captor.

You made Your people experience how much You love them,
O Compassionate One. You offered Yourself for them
to make them return to their first place.
You endured the passion and the crucifixion to give them life eternal.
You were crowned with a crown of thorns.
You were slapped in the face by mockery. Who can return
all the good You did to us, O Gentle One, full of graciousness?
We owe You thanksgiving for the sufferings You endured for us.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Monday

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They conspired and devised evil deeds.
They conspired evil against the Exalted One.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 21:23-32 The authority of Jesus is questioned.

Tuesday

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
You are a son of man like me, my companion, my friend.
Together we have taken meal in the house of God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 11:37-54 Indictment of the Pharisees and the scribes.

Wednesday

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The kings and powers of the earth arise.
and conspire against the Lord and His Christ.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 7:28-39 There is One who sent Me. I come from Him.

Thursday

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The poor will eat and be satisfied.
They will praise the Lord those who seek Him.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 6:47-58 Jesus the bread of life.

MEDITATION

Service of the Ninth Hour
on the days of the life-giving passion

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

At the Ninth Hour we confess You and we praise You,
Christ who saved us by Your Passion and Your humiliation. 3 *times.*

Praise to You, Our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

Psalms 119 *As here below:*
I called to the Lord in my distress,
I called and the Lord saved me.

Lord, deliver me from lying lips,
from treacherous tongues.

How He will give to you!
How He will repay you!
O treacherous tongues.

Like sharpened arrows of a warrior,
like glowing coals of broom.

Woe to me, whether I sojourn in Meshech,
or dwell near the tents of Kedar!

Too close do I dwell to those who hate peace.
As for me, peace indeed did I talk, but they, only war.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
Beloved, who would not suffer,
who would not make mourning,
seeing how the Lord of all is reviled by the wicked.

The Lord stands in the court of judgement.
He endures the Passion, of His own will.
There is no limit to His gentleness as they spit in His face.

Today the wicked priests gather
and devise their treacherous plot against our Lord,
to condemn Him to be crucified.

Come, Moses, see how Caiaphas is elevated in your place!
Come, Aaron, weep over Annas who is sitting to judge His Lord!

O the great wonder and marvel, He before whom, in highest heaven,
the Winged Creatures and the Fiery Ones tremble,
descended on earth and endured the Passion.

Holy Church of believers sing praise to the Son of God
who came to the passion of His own will,
and by His passion set your children free.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who as God is free from suffering but as man suffered in the flesh. Praise to the Good Shepherd who died to save His flock from savage wolves. Praise to the Gentle Lord who suffered reviling and mockery at the hands of the impure, but taught His worshippers to offer praise and thanksgiving. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the Ninth Hour...

Lord, You were delivered into the hands of sinners to free Your people from sin. You, the Righteous One, darkness took hold of You, that You might enlighten those who lie in darkness. Judge of judges, You Yourself were judged, to deliver us from judgement and condemnation. You, God-mighty-for-ever-more, were willingly bound to make us break away from the unbreakable bonds of sin. You, the Holy One of holy ones,

were reviled to save us from disgrace and ignominy. King of kings, You were slapped, to bestow freedom on the children of men. Magnificent One, You were stripped and abased, to remove from us the scars of sin. Brilliant Reflection of Flashing Fire, You were contemptuously clothed in purple, to clothe us in the robe of glory. Strong One, You trembled with fear to endow us with courage and strength. You are Lord and God, and You prayed that prayers might bring us help. You, the Most High, the All-powerful, were crucified in order to crucify our sins. Gracious One, You drank vinegar and gall that we might be refreshed with sweet wine.

Christ our God, who suffered all these things for our salvation, by the fragrance of this incense, we entreat You to give us strength, so that the concerns and anxieties of this world may be lightened and become bearable, that by sharing in Your crucifixion through the uprooting of all passions and the desisting from sin, we may die with You. And prompt us to do away with, and bury, all that separates us from Your love, that we may be buried with You. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The boy Isaac was laid on the altar and bound,
glad to die while doing the will of his Creator.
He was an image of the Mysteries of the Son who died for our sake
doing the will of His Father who sent Him for our salvation.
Glory to the Lord of parables who confirmed in truth the words
of the just who had seen His prefiguration with the eye of the Spirit.

Come, prophet Isaiah, tell us how the Spirit revealed to you
the death of the Son. He was led as a lamb taken to be slaughtered,
as a sheep before the shearer and He remained silent.
He was humiliated and He exalted His Church.
He received a blow and He freed His children.
Glory to Him who came, and by His blood saved us from deceit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

How beautiful it was of Abraham, the father of the nations, when
he made a prefiguration of the Son by the sacrifice of his only son.
Burning with love for his Lord he sacrificed the love of his beloved son
and bound the child on the altar, like the Father
who in His love for humankind sacrificed His Son for our salvation.
Blessed is He who by the death of His Son set us free from deceit.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Living Lamb of God descended from highest heaven
and took upon Himself humiliations for our salvation.
With His gentle voice He cried out,
"He who believes in Me does not walk in the dark."
The apostles, His heralds, proclaimed His truth among the nations.
And behold, they sing praise to Him, those who are saved.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

He searched for her that He might give her
the wine of His passion that she would live on it.
He prepared Himself to go to the passion
that He might revive Adam by His passion
and restore him to the glory he had lost.

He descended from His place to give life to Adam
who dared to transgress the commandment.
Filled with graciousness on account of His love,
He lowered Himself to endure the passion,
to deliver him from all passions.

How You inclined Yourself in Your graciousness,
and lent Yourself, our Lord, in Your gentleness,
to heal our wickedness and make us whole!
And instead of us standing in judgement before You,
You, Lord, were judged for our sake.

O You who suffered for us and saved us by Your blood,
and bore disgrace without any reason from Your part,
pour forth Your compassion over our sinfulness,
that we may be invited to Your marriage feast.
Glory to Your Name, adorable above all names.

The Holy Church bows down and adores You
who suffered for her out of love.
May her children offer songs of praise
on their harps and say,
"Blessed be Your Honour, You who suffered for us."

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Resurrection,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Look with compassion on Your house and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

How good of our Lord to come to the feast!
He is the fountain that sheds forth life for all those who come to Him.
He comes to the feast to eat the lamb with His disciples
and to accomplish the mysteries and the symbols which prefigured Him.

He gives sight to the blind and some say, "It is not the blind beggar
but one like him. How could He give sight to one born blind?"
He cures a man dumb and blind, possessed by an evil spirit,
and they say, "It is He who cures who is possessed by an evil spirit."

He gives the pardon of sins and heals diseases.
It is from Him that all feasts are enriched in all respects.
He is the fountain which sheds forth every day all good things
but the people whom He loves, requite Him with evil every day

Who could praise You worthily, O Son of the Good,
who instead of glory receives shame from the wicked?
All creatures make a joyful noise to praise You in their own ways,
our Lord, as they obey You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Behold, I spoke in parables.
I declared parables beforetime.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Monday

Mk	12 : 1-12	The parable of the wicked wine-dressers.

Tuesday

Lk	17 : 1-2	On leading astray the little ones.
Jn	6 : 29-30	Believe in the One God has sent.
	8 : 21-27	Warning against the unbelieving.

Wednesday

Lk	13 : 31-33	"Herod seeks to kill You."
	12 : 50	The baptism of the Passion.
	13 : 17	Confusion of the adversaries of Jesus, joy of the crowd.
Mk	3 :6	Conspiracy of the Pharissees with the Herodians.
	6 : 3	They reject the son of the carpenter.
Jn	10 : 39	They try to seize Him but He escapes.

Thursday

Mt	26 : 1-13	Conspiracy of the Elders of the people, priests and high priests Caiaphas... Mary's anointing of the feet of Jesus in the house of Simon the leper.

MEDITATION

Tuesday
in the week of the life-giving passion
Evening Prayer

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise, Opening Prayer, Triple Adoration, Psalms and Responses
As on Monday p. 378-380

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Good Shepherd who offered Himself unto death and saved His flock from savage wolves, the Gentle One who bore shame and mockery from the impure, but taught His worshippers to sing praise and offer thanksgiving. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Your Church adores You, Our Lord, Fruit of the Exalted One. Your flock exalts Your sufferings, sovereign and saving, Offspring of the Godhead. Your assembly praises Your atoning scars, God Mighty for ever more. You are He, Our Lord, who out of Your great love endured sufferings and the crucifixion for the children of Adam, the earthly one. It is You who atoned for his sin by being slain in Your own person. You are the victim of the sacrifice offered on the height of Golgotha which reconciled those on earth with those in heaven. You are the Holy Lamb without blemish who were offered of Your own will, and You took away the sin of the world by Your sacrifice. You are the Sanctifier of all, who became a fragrant incense of reconciliation for the evil-doers, and who reconciled the whole creation with Your Father. We give thanks for Your sufferings, our Lord, by which You did away with our sufferings. We revere Your scars by which our iniquity is consumed and vanishes away. We exalt Your death by which is vanquished he who brings about our death. For our sake You were seized by those who crucified You and You were led to the slaughter, You, the lamb without blemish. You incurred

condemnation to death in place of Adam, and You bore on Your back the cross of shame, that You might save the sheep which had strayed - that is our human nature which was lost. When You found it You brought it on Your shoulders and You made it enter the house of Your Father.

And now we beseech You, we entreat You, O Lord, may this incense which we offer in Your presence, be presented by Your hands to Him who sent You. In Your great compassion may it be received with graciousness, and may the pardon of offences and the forgiveness of sins be bestowed on us all. And while we are clothed in true faith and wear the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of goodness, strengthened also by the girdle of love, may we be worthy to come to Your Glorious Resurrection with faces unveiled. And we will sing praise and offer thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

Glory to the Father who sent His beloved Son,
who descended and became a son of man, out of love.
Of His own will He suffered the Passion, Death and the Cross,
and saved Adam who was consumed by corruption.

Glory to the Son of the Good who lowered Himself for the wicked
and bore sufferings for the unmindful, and by His crucifixion
brought peace in heaven and on earth and in all that is in them.
He saved His Church, and behold, she sings praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory for Your humiliation, Only One, God,
who gave Yourself for our salvation.
The wicked condemned You to death by crucifixion,
You the Life-giving One who do not die.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to the Rich and Wealthy One who became poor on account of us
and stretched Himself on the Cross for our sake.
By His passion for us, He slew Death who had slain us
and He gives us His body and His blood for our pardon.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

He who is not subject to passion
suffered the Passion in His own flesh for our sake,
and by the sweet scent of His sufferings
made to pass away the foul odour
of the passions that lead to sin.

By this fragrant incense which we present to You, our Lord,
in commemoration of Your Life-giving Passion for our sake,
drive away now all harmful passions from our bodies
and make us breathe forth the good odour of noble actions,
well-pleasing to You who are the sweet fragrance
which spreads forth from Your worshippers.

Second Hymn

The cluster of grapes carried by the spies to Joshua, the son of Nun,
was taken from the land of promise to the country of exile, on a pole,
by two men, one alien and another who had no understanding.
After it had been plucked, the people who received it
did not taste it, but now all people drink from it
and they sing praise, halleluia, to Him who saved them.

Listen, you whose heart is not hardened.
Tremble with wonder as you mediate
on the graciousness of the Uniquely-Beloved Son.
How He lowered Himself for us, mortals,
delivering Himself up to the Passion and Death.
Glory to Him and to Him who sent Him
for by His death He gives us life, halleluia, halleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to You, O Lover of Humankind, Saviour of the world,
Mysterious Child of the Father, who were seen on earth as one of us.
You endured sufferings in the flesh for the sake of Adam.
You were condemned to death for his salvation,
to set him free from his enslavement, the work of the Enemy,
and inherit Life and the Kingdom, lost on account of his sin.
Halleluia, halleluia, glory to You for Your humiliation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Daniel the man of desire, and David the king, and Jesus Himself
prophesied in the Holy Spirit about Jerusalem
where He was to be crucified,
"Not a single stone will be left on another."
And another oracle says, "Let its foundation be laid bare."
Let the Church be built in its place, halleluia, halleluia.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

How was it possible for the Creator to be raised on the Wood?
It was His great love that made Him come down
to such dishonour for the sake of Adam, to set him free
from his enslavement to the Evil One and to Death.

In the month of April the Upright One delivered their fathers
from Egypt and they escaped from the hands of the wicked Pharaoh.
In the same month, wicked ones dared to lay hands on the Life-giver,
and they fastened Him on the Cross.

The executioners pressed gall and vinegar from their sour grapes
and offered them to the Lord of the vineyard
who had multiplied the wine at the wedding feast
and they drank their fill, but rejected His love.

He made to flow waters of the Spirit. He offered them
to drink to the unfaithful, the harlot... and to satiety.
Thirsty for His blood, on Golgotha, she crucified the Lord
who was seeking fruits of recognition from the labourers.

To You be praise, Beloved Son, who suffered for us as You willed,
and You defeated Death and You took away our sufferings,
as we were healed by Your wounds.
We praise You and we adore You with reverence and love.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Cross,
hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Look with compassion on Your house and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

Reviled Lord, it is with shame that we recall how wicked people
reviled You, though You were humbling Yourself for our sake.
How You suffered contempt, holy, persecuted Lord,
though You healed the sick and did all miracles for Your people.
You were persecuted and You did not utter a word of complaint.

In the sight of the crowds You opened the eyes of the blind.
You gave them light but the wicked mocked You and flogged You.
With a single word You cured the withered hand,
yet hands were raised against You in defiance.

Moved by compassion You healed the tongue of the mute,
but shamefully the wicked spat in Your face.
You cast out devils and they called You the chief of devils.
You healed them, but they only heaped insults on You.

The chariot of the Winged Creatures, from all sides,
sings glory to You and the winding roads on earth praise You.
The myriads and millions of heavenly beings sing Your praise.
Glory to You, O Son of God.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

They walk from one nation to another nation,
from one kingdom to another.

Nb	13:25-33	Reconnaissance in Canaan.
Ezk	33:23-33	Prediction of the ruin of Jerusalem.
Ac	7:1-10	The Covenant with Abraham.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul

I made an eternal covenant with Israel.
I gave you the land of Canaan for your inheritance.

Ga 3:6-14 Abraham's faith.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They are on the watch to seize the Just.
The innocent blood they condemn.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 22:15-22 The Pharisees conspire to trap Jesus in His words.
Lk 20:20-26 As in the question on the tribute due to Caesar.
Jn 8:21-37 Jesus warns those who refuse to believe in Him.

Intercessions and Prayer

As on Monday, p.385

MEDITATION

Service of Protection for the Night

As on Monday, p.386

Tuesday
in the week of the life-giving passion
Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise Blessed are You, Christ... p. 378

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer and Night Psalms,
As on Monday, p. 391

RESPONSE
Why do you love sleep more than praise, my soul?
How long will you be engrossed in pleasures that do not profit?
Awake now! Arise and sing praise!

Blessed is the Good One who sent His mercy from highest heaven
and stood in the court of judgement instead of Adam and endured
the Passion of His own will. Glory to Him who suffered for our sake.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Scribes and Pharisees plot evil schemes against the Innocent One.
He healed their infirmities and they cut the wood for the crucifixion.
Blessed is He who offered Himself to the Passion for our sake.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Our Lord healed all manner of pain and sickness of His people,
but they requited Him with suffering, disgrace and the crucifixion.
Blessed is He who endured all pains for our sake.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Caiaphas prophesied. The insolent uttered the truth,
"It is expedient that one man die for all the children of Adam,
that the whole world may not perish."
Lord of all, to You be praise.

The Pardoner of sins descended on earth. He took on a body from a daughter of David. His graciousness persuaded Him and His love constrained Him to come to suffering and to the crucifixion. Glory to Him who suffered for us. Lord of all, to You be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Word, simple and spiritual by nature...
As on Monday, First Watch, p. 392

Hymn

The Watchers in heaven were filled with awe when they saw
the Son of God lowering His Great Majesty,
and coming to the Passion of His own will, He who is truly God.
Glory to Him who so humbled Himself for the salvation of Adam
and delivered the race of the mortal ones from the tyranny of sin.

Wicked people requited Jesus with a cruel retribution,
though Solomon, the Great Sage, had taught in his maxims,
"He who repays evil for a favour, evil will not depart from him."
They were given the manna and the quails to eat in the desert
and they gave Him the crucifixion, vinegar and gall, and mockeries.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

He on whom the Fiery Ones dare not look and by whose hand all food is given, pours water into a basin and washes the feet of his disciples. Those on high are astounded, seeing how He lowers His Majesty. He fashioned the dust, and in His compassion He washes it from their feet, the Fashioner. Glory to Him and to Him who sent Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

God descended from the hidden heaven, the highest heaven,
to the accursed earth, that it may be blessed by His steps,
that her thorns be removed and all good plants be sown. But the
scribes and the Pharisees set on Him with hateful schemes of Satan,
to condemn the Innocent to death, who had committed no offence.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I have become a stranger to My brothers,
an alien to My mother's sons.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Zeal for Thy house consumed Me
though the insults of those who insult Thee
have fallen upon Me,
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 2:13-25 Before the Passover Jesus cleanses the Temple.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Praise

At this time of the night, let us praise and adore Christ
who saved us by His Passion and His humiliation. 3 *times.*

Our Father in heaven...
Psalm 43 (42), Response *As on Monday, Third Watch,* p. 399

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to God the Word, who was knit together
As on Monday, Third Watch, p. 400

Hymn *Madrosho*

Refrain: *Glory to You, Living One who do not die,*

who died and who live and who give life to the mortal ones.

The Mighty Eagle rests in the nest of the gentle doves.
The Lord of all creatures makes to sit at table those He created.
He stands before His servants to serve them.
The Lord of all, honours those He has chosen,
that they may learn to renounce all honours.
He who rides the winds willed to reveal His gentleness
that we might learn not to seek honours for ourselves.

The Master and His disciples gathered in the upper room
to celebrate the Mysteries. The Mighty One humbled Himself.
He lowered Himself to the limits of humiliation,
He who is the Lord of all and God above all Gods. The Hidden One
praised by the Living Creatures with their wheels of fire
willed to reveal to His disciples the path of humiliation,
that they might walk in His footsteps.

Who would not wonder at You, Our Lord,
when he sees how Your love made You lower Yourself,
and when he sees Your divine head lowered before Your disciples?
You, God Mighty for ever more, Blazing Fire, like a servant
at the meal You serve Your servants.
Glory to You, Firstborn of the Exalted One.
Thanksgiving to Your Name, at all times.

The servants rested in the upper room of the Mysteries.
The Lord was standing before them and He took a cloth
and girded Himself with it to wash the feet of His disciples.
How Your love of the human nature made You lower Yourself,
who washed the feet of Judas who was to betray You! Glory to You,
Good and Gentle One. Blessed be Your love that endured so much.

He chose His lambs innocent, beautifully simple, without blemish,
and in His love for humankind, He willed them to be lights,
like the sun. He endowed their hands with power to work miracles
and He promised them rank and authority.
When He comes with power and glory, they also will be judges.

Rain of life and blessings, why do You come down on the wicked?
Sower of good seeds, now thorns pierce Your head.
Dew of graciousness that comes down
on the just and the wicked together and give life to all,
why do You water that wicked thorn of sin,
that wounds You with its stings?

O Good One, even if You wanted to humble Yourself before the pure
by washing their feet, why, O Gentle One, did You make Yourself
the servant of Judas as well as of John? What love, Our Lord, made
You incline before the impure, that You washed the feet of him
who received the price to deliver You into the hands of the priests?
Great and Brilliant Sun to what end do You come to the darkness?

Let all those who are endowed with reason acknowledge their nobility.
The Maker of all and Lord of glory who rides on the fearful chariot
of the Winged Creatures is now among the disciples.
He who is in the heart of the Father now washes the feet
of the disciple who is to deliver Him unto death. His goodness
inclined Him to this, that Adam might be restored to his place.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
If I say, "Let darkness cover Me,
and the light about Me be night",
even the darkness is not dark to Thee,
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with Thee.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 3:11-21 They loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Praise

At this time of the night, let us praise and adore Christ
who saved us by His Passion and His humiliation. 3 *times.*

Our Father in heaven...

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His incomparable wisdom made the heavenly ones and the earthly ones, and set them to the perpetual praise to His Godhead. And when man whom He had made transgressed the rightful commandment set before him, and fell into a thorny land, He revealed His graciousness towards him. Beforehand, by visions through the prophets He signified His coming to comfort him by the restoration of salvation to be made by his Lord. Each one of them, in different ways, prefigured the things of His Dispensation concerning His visitations to him, in the body that He would take from his seed, how He would endure the Passion, the Crucifixion and Death, to raise him and to restore him to his inheritance. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Who may be found worthy to thank You as is fitting for Your goodness towards us, O Word of God, who came to the Passion and to Death of Your own will? The holy prophets beheld beforehand with the eye of the Spirit Your humiliation in this manner, and depicted Your willing sacrifice for the sake of guilty Adam, as when one of them, by his blood which was shed, showed forth Your blood shed for the salvation of the world. Another bound his son for an offering in order that he might prefigure Your offering, O Lamb of God. One by his descent into Egypt signified Your way in truth and by the lamb which was slain in the evening figured Your slaying. One showed forth by sacrifices and libations Your sacrifice. Another prophesied, "The Christ is coming and will be slain, and Jerusalem will be laid waste." Then Isaiah, glorious among the prophets, fixing his mystical gaze on Your humiliation and Your silence, and looking with the eye of the Spirit said, "Like a lamb He was led to the slaughter and like a sheep before the shearer He was silent." David also said of You, "They have pierced my hands and my feet." And Zechariah, "The Shepherd shall be struck and His sheep be scattered."

You then, Lord, fulfilled all the prophecies when You came to the vineyard of which Isaiah spoke beforehand, that You would seek the fruits. But those labourers who had also reviled and slain the prophets hated You who are the Lord of prophets and God above all gods, and they delivered You unto death, death on a cross. Therefore according to the word of the prophet You laid waste the vineyard and cast down the

tower which stood in the midst of it and uprooted its hedge, and gave it to be trodden down by the peoples. Then You planted the Holy Church, a vineyard made to bring forth fair and holy fruits for You.

Therefore we beseech You, with her children, to guard her from the Evil One and from all his snares and devices. And grant us then, to us all, the children of the Holy Church, to join in Your suffering and to find glory in Your Cross, and instead of the ill-treatment of Your executioners, to offer You praise such as is pleasing to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Come, prophet Isaiah, tell us how the Holy Spirit revealed to you
the death of the Son. As a lamb led to the slaughter, so they led Him.
As a sheep before the shearer He was silent and did not speak.
He humbled Himself and exalted His Church.
He was struck with a blow but delivered her children.
Blessed is He who came to save us by the blood from His neck.

With the eye of prophecy Isaiah saw God in the middle of the court,
standing as a culprit, with a crown of thorns on His head,
clothed in a garment of derision, a target of all mockeries,
and he said to Him, "What are these marks that I see on Your hands
and on Your feet?" Blessed is the Good One who suffered for us,
and had compassion and mercy upon us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Living Lamb of God descended from highest heaven,
He lowered Himself from His heavenly dwelling place for our salvation.
He came to seek fruits of honour from the vineyard of His Father,
but when the wicked labourers saw Him they thought, "Here is the Son.
Let us kill Him and His inheritance will be ours. "Blessed is He
who defeated their schemes and who betrothed the Church by dying
for all.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The mountains and the highlands quake with the wakeful Ones on high
and the heavenly companies and the bands of earthly ones tremble,
when the Son of the Exalted One says to the Father who sent Him,
"How bitter this cup mixed by the Father for His Son!
Father, if it is possible, remove it. But, my Father, Your will be done!
I die and I resurrect, that the sons of men may have life."

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Your words are a lamp to our feet,
a light upon our path.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I am the light of the world.
He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark.
He will have the light of life.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 7:45-52 The chief priests send the temple police to arrest Jesus.
8:12-20 No one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come.

MEDITATION

Tuesday
in the week of the life-giving passion
Morning Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise, Opening Prayer, Triple Adoration, Psalms and Responses,
As on Monday, p. 404, *except the last Psalm (Psalm 2) replaced by*

Psalm 12 (11) Help, O Lord, because good people are vanishing...

RESPONSE
Today companies and companies of wicked people
conspire to prove the Innocent One guilty
and to condemn Him to death.

Today the wolf lost his soul,
as he departed from the community of the lambs,
and went to join the companies of the house of Caiaphas.

Today crafty serpents conspire
to prove guilty the Sun of Righteousness,
the light that enlightens them all.

Today Caiaphas prophesies about our Saviour,
"It is better that one man should die in the place of many,
than that the whole nation should be destroyed."

Today heaven and earth and all that is in them trembles for Judas,
the betrayer who delivered his Master
into the hands of the priests, to put Him to death.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who of His own will and that of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit descended from His lofty and exalted habitation and dwelt in the world of humans, in the flesh which He took from us. And before His Life-giving Passion, He revealed it to His disciples. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of morning...

Christ our God who in Your own being are above suffering, You endured suffering for our sake, of Your own will, according to Your Economy of Salvation. You, the Knower of hidden things and Seer of revelations, before Your Saving and Life-giving Passion You revealed to Your holy disciples the mystery of Your Life-giving Passion when You said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of wicked people. They will beat Him and crucify Him, but He shall rise again on the third day."

Therefore we know You as God who endured the Passion in the flesh to save us from the sinful passions. With a broken heart we adore You and we confess You as we say, "This is the Living Lamb of God, who was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and like a sheep before the shearer remained silent while He was being crucified. This is the Lamb of God of whom the people of Annas cried out to Pilate, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him." This is the Lamb of God who by His Cross overcomes the sin of the world. This is the Lamb of God in whom the thief at the right hand put his trust. This is the Lamb of God at the time of whose crucifixion the earth shook and quaked. This is the Lamb of God who bore for us reviling and mocking. This is the Lamb of God who said, "Into Thy hands I commit My Spirit." And He surrendered His spirit into the hands of His glorious Father.

Because of this we pray and beseech Your Goodness, O Gracious Lord, by the saving sufferings which You endured for us, have compassion on us who cry out to You. As we pray for mercy, be gracious to the whole world. Be for us and all, the Helper and the Harbour of Salvation. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

The crafty priests gathered to devise wicked schemes
to condemn the Innocent One to the Cross, the evil ones!
Glory to Him who in His graciousness humbled Himself for us,
and endured the sufferings of the Cross and saved us from deception.

The vine that went forth from Egypt flourished.
The mountains leapt before it like lambs.
It gave beautiful clusters of grapes.
The people plucked them but the nations ate them.
And those who raised Him on the tree are ravaged and laid waste.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The scribes and the Pharisees devise evil schemes against our Saviour
to prove guilty and condemn to death the Firstborn of the Exalted One,
and they prepare a cross for Him who healed their diseases.
Blessed is He who endured sufferings for us,
and by His Passion gives life to the whole world.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Holy Church of believers makes a joyful noise with songs of praise
for the Slain Bridegroom who by His death gives life to sinners,
and by His sufferings delivers her children
from their enslavement to sin, and on the day of His Resurrection
gladdens the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

He who is not subject to passion
suffered the Passion in His own flesh for our sake,
and by the sweet scent of His sufferings
made to pass away the foul odour
of the passions that lead to sin.

By this fragrant incense which we present to You, our Lord,
in commemoration of Your Saving Passion for our sake,
drive away now all harmful passions from our bodies
and make us breathe forth the good odour of noble actions,

well-pleasing to You who are the sweet fragrance
which spreads forth from Your worshippers.

Second Hymn

God saw Abraham ascending the summit of the mountain
to make an offering of Isaac, his well-beloved son.
And the Most High made His voice resound from heaven which said,
"See the lamb caught in the thicket. Offer it to Me
instead of your son. Even if Isaac dies he cannot save the creation.
I will send My Son, My Beloved, to be offered in sacrifice on the Cross
and to redeem the world by His innocent blood."

The mountains and the highlands and the slopes to the valleys
are weeping for innocent Abel, the gentle lamb,
who besought his brother with tears and sighs,
"You may have the whole earth, but do not kill me. I give it to you
as your inheritance, but do not shed my blood on this earth.
My brother, remember God who searches the heights and the depths.
Do not destroy the fair image which He fashioned with His own hands.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Wakeful Ones on high were filled with wonder and great marvel
when they saw the humiliation of the Lord of all creatures.
How He was standing calm and silent, while the people
clamoured for His death, to have Him condemned to be crucified.
He was silent like a lamb, as Isaiah prophesied. Like a sheep
led to the slaughter He did not open His mouth in His humiliation.
Glory to His humiliation which made Him lower Himself for our sake.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Lord of all creatures stands in the middle of the feast.
He sheds forth his help to sinners who turn to repentance
and binds their wounds with the medicines of His word.
But the wicked devise schemes against Him, to seize Him by treachery
and then raise Him on the summit of the Cross, fulfilling the word
of the prophet, "I was requited with evil for all the good I did."
In the midst of My sufferings they gathered around Me
and made merry about Me.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

He entered into covenant with Abraham
and made promises with oaths to Isaac.

Gn	22 : 1-18	The sacrifice of Isaac.
Is	29 : 22-24	Vision of hope.
	25 : 6-10A	The Lord's messianic banquet for all peoples.
Jm	2 : 20-23	Abraham justified in offering his son, faith at work in action.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul

The arrogant have hidden traps for Me.
The destroyers have worked destruction on my paths.

Rm	4:1-5	Abraham's faith.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They open their mouths against Me
like roaring lions prowling for prey.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn	8 : 39-59	Abraham's true children.

"Before Abraham was born, I am," said Jesus.

MEDITATION

Services of the Sixth Hour and the Ninth Hour

as given on Monday, with proper Psalm and proper Gospel, pp. 418 & 423

Wednesday
in the week of the life-giving passion
Called Wednesday of the Conspiracies
Evening Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

Christ for the plotting of whose death the people assembled,
give us to assemble for Your praise at all times.

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem be opened
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven....

Opening Prayer, Triple Adoration, Psalms and Responses
As on Monday, p. 379.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Saviour whose coming the prophets signified beforehand, and whose salvation the righteous represented, and whose noble deeds the holy manifested, and whose humiliation the just declared, and whose passion the upright made known, and whose crucifixion the seers proclaimed. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, of Your own will and that of Your Father beyond all understanding and of Your Holy Spirit, You united the flesh of our nature with Your divine person, and You fulfilled in Your person all those things which the holy prophets foretold concerning You, when one by the suffering

which he endured without complaint represented a figure of Your suffering. Another by the binding of his beloved son on an altar, manifested beyond telling Your nailing on the Cross. One by the lamb which was slain in the evening represented Your own slaughter at the end of time. Another by the spear which was lifted up made known the victory of Your precious Cross. One when saying, "I prepared myself for suffering," prophesied concerning Your willing suffering on our behalf. Another said, "Truly, He takes our sicknesses away and carries our diseases for us." One declared in Babylon, "The Anointed One, the King, shall be slain, and Jerusalem shall be laid waste." Another signified that You should be offered in sacrifice for our sins and our iniquities. One asked, "Why are Your garments red and stained with Your own blood?" Another declared, "By the blood of Your covenant You will set free the prisoners from the waterless pit of Sheol."

But we beseech You, Lord, Great Lover of Humankind, that by Your Saving and Life-giving Passion You will bestow on us integrity, purity and sanctity of body, soul and spirit. And grant us Your pardon and the forgiveness of sins, for You are the God of our salvation. To You we offer praise and thanksgiving, and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

On Wednesday our Lord revealed a hidden mystery to His disciples.
"One of You is a devil. He will deliver Me to the high priests,
and they will hang Me on the top of the tree. They will pierce my hands
with nails and lay Me in a tomb. But after three days
I will rise again and I will go before you into Galilee."

The disciples asked the Master, "Please, tell us what this saying means.
Who is the devil who will deliver You into the hands of the high priests?"
Our Lord answered and said to them,
"He who dips his hand in the dish with Me will deliver Me
to the high priests and to the wicked people."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On Wednesday our Lord revealed a hidden mystery to His disciples.
"Do not grieve, little ones, because it is for you that I die.
The people will take Me and crucify Me on Golgotha.
They will pierce My hands with nails, for the sake of Adam,
the earthly one. I love him unto death.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to You, Word of God, who became man in Your goodness,
and gave Yourself for the wretched and they laid hands on You,
and brought You to the judge, led as a lamb to the slaughter
for our mean race. Glory to Your graciousness, O Good One,
who loved our nature so much that You tasted death for our sake.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Incense of Propitiation who made our reconciliation,
Perfume of Pardon and Acceptable Offering,
who reconciled us with the Divine Majesty,
receive this incense offered to You from the depths of our hearts.

Hallow our lips that we may offer You
sacrifices of pure praise and give thanks to You,
Priest free from all guilt and Incense of Reconciliation,
and also to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn

Glory to You, our Saviour, who lowered Yourself when You
put on our body, and visited Adam in his place to lift him up
from his fall. And You mingled with the children of men
that Adam might come up and the evil spirits be brought low.
You were insulted by wrongdoers. They called You 'Samaritan'.
And You veiled Your radiance that the insolent may not be scorched
But after all these good things they prepared for You the cross of shame
with the wicked.

There is great wonder in the creation, and much stirring and fright,
because God becomes man and empties Himself of His own will.
A people foolish and blind conspire to condemn Him to death
because He came to seek fruits of recognition

from the vineyard planted at His command.
They reviled and abused Him, and from the trees
cut the wood of the Cross. And after all these good things,
when He was thirsty they offered Him vinegar and gall.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The King lowered His majesty to the human condition. He came
like rain on the thirsty earth to heal the diseases of humankind.
He willed to be counted as a man.
He ascended to Jerusalem for the feast as any other man.
But the Feast was waiting for Him to fulfill the signs which Moses
had prefigured about Him, and Isaiah who predicted His death.
And He came to fulfil their mysteries.
And now, behold, the creation whom He saved adores Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The wicked prepared the cross of shame for the Son of God.
Because of their jealousy they could not bear to see Your great beauty.
You cured their illness and made them whole.
You called them to life by Your commandments.
But as they heard You, they grew bitter and plotted to put You to death.
Praise for Your goodness. For even angels could not accept that You
willed to be humiliated and were laid hands upon by the impure,
and put to shame like a criminal.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which, You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

They heaped thorns and brambles, brushwood and briar,
to quench the Fire that consumes the worlds.
When they went to seize Him, He veiled His radiance,
He withheld His power that the worthless straw be not consumed.

Blessed be the Guiltless, who stands before the judge in His love,
that He might set us free, as He willed, to redeem Adam's guilt.
Like a lamb He is led to the slaughter,
and He offers Himself to suffering and death.

Who would not fall upon his knees in prayer,
who sees the Son of God falling on His face to pray.
By showing His graciousness to those who pray for mercy,
He encourages all to pray.

The Fiery Ones fold their wings on themselves to give glory
to the Godhead, but the people of dust revile Him.
The Fiery Ones sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy to You."
But wicked people shout, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him."

Let sincere praise be offered to You in loud voices,
from all mouths, Lord, who endured the Passion of Your own will,
and received insults from the wicked. Blessed are You by all.
To You be glory.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Cross,
hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Look with compassion on Your house. How desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

Come, Moses, see the bride which You led out of Egypt,
what she has done to the Bridegroom who covered her with ornaments.
Come and see, and you will know how she loves Him
from the banquet she set before her Bridegroom on Golgotha.
She mixed the gall with the vinegar and offered it.
She forged the nails and she sharpened the spear.
And what kind of evil did she not do?
See the table set before Him by the Daughter of the Hebrews.
Is it not like that of Herod and his revelling party
when John's head was brought on a platter to reward the dancing girl?

Come, great worker of the Master's vineyard and see clearly
how desolate it is! How instead of grapes it bears only brambles.
Come, diligent worker and mourn over the beloved which lies desolate,
and understand that you have to leave it, you cannot any more
work there diligently. Caiaphas and Annas are now the masters
and they have laid waste My beloved vineyard.
Wail, Moses, over your vine in which deceitful workers have sown
detestable thorns and briars. Its only fruits are gall and vinegar.
The chosen plant of the house of Abraham is being replaced,
for the taste of Isaac's clusters is not in its bunches.

Rest, Jacob, no need any more to take up your work in earnest,
for the vineyard is laid waste by wicked tenants who have seized it.
Come, Moses, go rather to the land of the nations and make to grow
there the new vine planted by Simon Peter wherever he is being sent.
It is I who send my beloved apostles to plant it.
Take the prophets with you and you all follow them.

My Lord, let the nations who turned to You, through Your Cross
praise You. Let them bring their offerings of praise with faith.
In the place of the labourers who laid waste the vineyard
and did not give You the fruits, let the nations offer praise
to You and to Your father and to the Holy Spirit.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

All My enemies together murmur against Me.
Together they conspire against Me.

Nb	11:16-29	Moses is given seventy leaders to help him.
Jr	18:18-20	Jeremiah's prayer as his enemies plot against him.
Ac	4:5-12	Peter and John are questioned by the Sanhedrin.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul

My enemies say evil things against Me:
"Would it were that He die and His name perish!"

Heb	9:24-28	The unique sacrifice of Christ is our salvation.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They devise and speak evil.
They speak with perfidy against the Most High.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt	26:1-2	Jesus foretells His Passion to His disciples.
	26:21	His betrayal by one of them.
	26:3-4	The conspiracy against Him.
Jn	11:47-56	The Jewish leaders decide on the death of Jesus.

Intercessions and Prayer

As on Monday, p. 385

MEDITATION

Service of Protection for the Night

As on Monday, p. 386

Wednesday
in the week of the life-giving passion
Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Praise, Opening Prayer and Night Psalms *As on Monday,* p. 391

RESPONSE

It is good to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy! Holy! Holy! O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Beloved, as we awake from sleep let us give praise to the Lord
who suffered for us, and by His Passion took away our sufferings.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

This night our Lord spoke openly about His Passion to His disciples.
The chosen apostles were much grieved, mourning and in distress.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

This night the Iscariot blinded by his love for money bound himself
in a plot with the crucifiers, to have the Lord condemned in the court.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On this fateful night, Judas took from the priests the price of his Master,
thirty pieces of silver, and made ready to put Him to death.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

This night wicked people gather in roaming gangs
to seek by what device they will lay hands on the Son of God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Word simple and spiritual by nature...
As on Monday, Night Vigil, First Watch, p. 392

Hymn *Selected Stanzas*

On Wednesday our Lord revealed to His disciples the Hidden Mystery
concerning His Passion when He said to them,
"Behold we are going up to the Holy City, and the Son of Man
will be delivered into the hands of sinful people,
and they will flog Him, the Lamb who descended from heaven
for the salvation of the world, halleluia, halleluia."

Tell Me, you who kill the prophets and thirst for their blood,
what wrong did Isaiah do to you that you sawed him into two parts?
And Jeremiah to be thrown into a cistern where he sank in the mire?
And Zechariah to be killed in the temple before the altar?
Your wantonness and killings will not end until the Son is slain.
On account of this you will be laid waste, and in your place
He will build the Church, halleluia, halleluia.

Our Lord said to His disciples, "As I called Sion at first, let us see
what she did". Simon replied, "Lord, let us not go there;
they seek to kill You. But Thomas said, "Come, let us go and die
with Him, and when He rises we will cry out to Him,
"Glory to You, Lord, halleluia, who gave us life by Your Passion."

The Holy Church of believers sings praise to the Son of God
who saved her from deceit by His Passion and who bore mockeries
from the wicked, a slap in the face and a crown of thorns.
In their impudence they hanged Him on the Cross with sinners
who by His sufferings and the crucifixion gives life to the Creation.
Halleluia, blessed is the Father who sent Him.

Beloved, faith is the eye which sees hidden things.
By it the just saw the promises made to them
and they endured all their sufferings. By it Abraham
saw the promise made to him and endured his long trials
for he could understand the profit coming to him through adversity.
Blessed are You whom the Mysteries prefigured in truth.

But the Mystery remained guarded, the secret about the death
of the Son, that all would be set free from bondage by one child.
For, truly, grace sets free from deceit and untruth
and overcomes those who fight against the truth.
Grace weaves a garland of love for the Victorious One
who by His humiliation exalted our race fallen on account of sin.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They devise and speak evil.
They speak with perfidy against the Most High.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 10:14-30 The Jewish leaders question the Good Shepherd... the Son... who declares solemnly, "I and the Father are One."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Praise

At this time of the night we confess You and adore You,
Christ who saved us by Your Passion and Your humiliation. *3 times*

Our Father in heaven...

Psalm 43 (42) Vindicate my cause, O God...
Response and Eucharistic Prayer, p. 399-401

Praise... to God the Word who was knit together with the flesh...

All as on Monday, Third Watch, p. 400

Hymn *Selected Stanzas*

The children of Abraham, my friend, returned evil for good.
They hated Me with a blind hatred.
I spoke words of peace to them but they rose against Me
and prepared for Me the cross of shame, halleluia.
Following this they were scattered, and I built the Church.

The Mighty One lowered Himself of His own will
and came to endure all sufferings for guilty Adam.
Priests full of deceit seized Him and put Him to death iniquitously.
On account of His boundless love and His bountiful graciousness
for our race, He suffered dishonour and all kinds of abuse
from the evil-doers to whom He was bringing life.

Today the Mystery about our Saviour which all the prophets of Israel
signified concerning His Passion, is unfolded and revealed
to His disciples, that He would come to die in Jerusalem.
He who delivered their fathers from death by a lamb, lowered Himself
out of His life-giving love to deliver His Church from deceit.

He on whom the Fiery Ones cannot look rose from supper indeed,
to reveal how He loved them to the end. He poured water into a basin,
girded Himself with a towel and washed the feet of His disciples.
The companies of the heavenly ones were astounded,
seeing how He lowered His greatness, He who fashioned man
out of dust, how He humbled Himself even to be their servant.

Today heaven and earth, angels and men are wrapped in suffering,
seeing how the Son of God has come to the Passion and to humiliation.
The disciples in distress pour themselves out in lamentations.
As the Shepherd is struck down they are scattered.
Glory to Him who by His death gives life to the children of Adam.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The rulers and powers of the earth rise against their Lord,
they conspire against the Christ of God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 7:14-27 The Jewish authorities, high priests and elders question the Messiaship of Jesus.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Praise

At this time of the night we confess You and adore You,
Christ who saved us by Your Passion and Your humiliation. *3 times*

Our Father in heaven...

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His incomparable wisdom...
As on Tuesday Third Watch, p. 440

Hymn *Madrosho of Mar Ephrem the Teacher*

Refrain to be repeated after each stanza.
The lamb of God was slain in April to free the Creation.
Glory to Him who sent Him.

April beautifies Him with garlands of flowers, as He made
the crowd to sit on the grass and they ate their fill. Oh, the wonder!
How the new grass of April reflects the Hidden April,
giving Him beauty and honour. Flowers are clothed with splendour.
The flowers of the Lord are splendour, His deeds show forth His glory.

The sun from within the darkness weaves Your garland.
It withdraws and ceases from circling in the air for three hours.
It completes this by making the three days of Your death a garland,
by making known the warfare with death in which You are engaged,

and by proclaiming that everyone can conquer through the Cross.
For You took death as the instrument of Your victory,
like Goliath who fell and died through his own sword.

The sun proclaims that He is both hidden and revealed,
for He put on a body in order to suffer in His own nature,
He who is not subject to suffering. And He becomes radiant
in the mystery of His power as if bathed in beams of light.
Oh, the sun! that goes into hiding, a mystical mourning!
And it illumines the Light for which it is mourning.
He is comforted, and appears and gives comfort
when out of the tomb He appears to His Church.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Evil-doers have encompassed Me.
They will be put to shame and to confusion
who seek to snatch away My life.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 1:24-34 The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
The chosen One of God.

MEDITATION

Wednesday
in the week of the life-giving passion
Morning Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise, Opening Prayer, Triple Adoration, Psalms and Response

As on Monday, p. 404, *except the last psalm (psalm 2) replaced by:*

Psalm 10 (9b) Lord, why do You stand afar off?...

RESPONSE

Today our Lord reveals to the Twelve the secret mystery:
"One of you will betray Me and take a price for Me."

Today the wolf goes forth from the fold of the sheep,
to mingle with the company of treacherous people.

Today in his treachery Judas parts from his companions
and conspires perfidiously against the True Shepherd.

Today the Good One offers Himself to the Passion and to Death
for the sake of guilty Adam who fell in the Garden of Eden.

Today the chief priest prophesies concerning our Lord,
"It is our interest that one man die so that the nation may live."

Today our Lord tells His disciples, "Do not grieve.
I rise. I resurrect that you may live."

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who knows all secret things and who revealed beforehand to His chosen and holy disciples the Mystery of His Life-giving Passion, telling them also of His Life-giving Crucifixion and of the betrayal of the deceitful disciple. To the Living One belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of morning...

Glory and thanksgiving to You, Christ our God, who in Your Being are not subject to passion and not subject to death, and it pleased You to make us also not subject to passion and not subject to death. Out of love and of Your own will You became man like us and You took on Yourself to endure the Passion, also of Your own will. And beforehand You told the beloved and glorious company of Your disciples that all the mysteries and symbols and parables would be fulfilled at the Mystic and Sacred Table where the lamb prefigured by Moses would be offered. And when You said to them, "One of you will betray Me," You revealed the treachery of the deceitful disciple and false apostle.

While You are the Judge of judges and the Lord of lords, You were driven as a lamb to be judged by Pilate. And like a sheep before the shearer You remained silent. You stood in the court like a man and You were interrogated like any other culprit. You were slapped in the face by a servant, You who set servants free from their enslavement to sin. You were lifted up on the Cross, You who raise us to highest heaven. You drank vinegar and tasted gall, You who give us to drink of the cup of immortality. Your hands were pierced by nails, You who cleanse our sinful hands. Your side was opened by a spear, You who break the spear of the Winged Creature guarding Paradise. You died upon the tree, You who give us new life. You descended into Sheol, You who make us return to Paradise.

Because of all these things You did for us we confess You and we praise You. With voices of thanksgiving we honour and exalt Your goodness. We believe that You are truly God and we implore You to make us share in Your Passion, in purity and holiness. May we be crucified to the passions and temptations of the world and may the world be crucified to us. May we set aside all the sinful pleasures of sinful man and live in You the true life. We ask You, make us alien and strangers to sin but partakers of Your Mystic and Sacred Table, that we may be worthy to praise You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

On Wednesday and Thursday at Jerusalem there is intrigue and tension between buyer and seller, and neither of the them makes any gain. Judas sells and Caiaphas purchases. They are traders of deception.

He who sells does not gain, neither does he who buys.
Jesus Himself is troubled in spirit when He reveals the betrayal,
halleluia, Judas receives the bread and goes forth. It was night.

The glorious day of the Passover of the Lamb of God is near
which Moses made his people to celebrate at night in Egypt.
Let us take our lamps and go to meet Him. With devoted minds
and pure hearts, let us confess Christ our King, the New Passover,
sacrificed to make us pass from death to life, halleluia.
How beautiful Your Passover!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The disciple who betrayed His Master, a foul lover of money,
opened his heart to Satan and plotted the death of our Lord.
He sold out the Giver of Life, out of hatred. He received the money
and concluded the transaction. Let us take care, brothers, not to fall
away from God's life Let not the love of money fill our hearts,
or any other passion, halleluia, lest we fall away from Christ's love.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Saviour set out for His Passion at Jerusalem.
On reaching there He entered the city where He was to be crucified
and seeing a fig tree, He looked for fruits, but there was none.
"May no one ever eat fruit from you again," He said to the tree.
Thus do people who do not bear fruit fall away from Christ's love.
Halleluia, Lord, be gracious to us and all.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Incense of Propitiation who made our reconciliation,
Perfume of Pardon and Acceptable Offering
who reconciled us with the Divine Majesty,
receive this incense offered to You from the depths of our hearts.

Hallow our lips that we may offer You sacrifices of pure praise,
O Priest free from all guilt and Incense of reconciliation,
that we may sing pure praises and offer sincere thanksgivings,
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn

Praise to You, O God who lowered Yourself and put on a body
and visited Adam in his place and raised him up from his fall.
You humbled Yourself and endured the Passion to remove all evil
and to exalt our race. Evil rulers rejected You.
They called You, Samaritan, but You veiled Your radiance
that the impudent would not be blinded.
And in return for all Your blessings they prepared for You
the Cross of shame with the criminals.

The King lowered His Majesty to our human weakness. He was like
a rain on the creation to heal all the ills of our human nature.
He willed to become man and went up to Jerusalem for the feast,
as it is written, but also to put an end to the feast. By this
He fulfilled the parables: His mystery signified by Moses and
His death announced by Isaiah. He came and fulfilled all the
Mysteries. And behold, all creatures which He saved adore Him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

With a broken heart, He who hears prayers fell on His face to pray
and made supplication with loud cries to the Father who sent Him.
As He became man, He humbled Himself in supplication, out of love.
The Fiery Ones tremble and cover their faces before Him,
but the impious prepared for Him the Cross of shame.
Glory to Him who suffered so much for the sake of sinners.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Abraham the father of the nations and Jacob, just and righteous men,
lived by faith in their time and honoured the Son by their mysteries.
But the house of Annas and Caiaphas, priests of His Father, infamous
heirs, rejected the Son who lowered Himself to them as a son of man,
and they returned evil for His blessings. Glory to Him who removed
them and who chose the Church. And behold, she sings praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

They sharpened their tongues like swords,
their words like deadly arrows.

Nb	14 : 2-4 26-35	The people's revolt in the desert; God punishes them.
Ac	18 : 12-17	Paul is tried in the court.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul

They speak falsely,
they contrive evil in their hearts

Col.	1:21-29 2:1-3	Christ, God's mystery, in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
My enemies speak evil against Me.
When will that be? Let Him die and His name be forgotten.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn	2 : 13-25 7 : 33-36 12 : 31-36	During the Jewish Passover Jesus cleanses the Temple. Jesus foretells His approaching departure. He speaks about His death and subsequent glorification.

MEDITATION

Services of the Sixth Hour and the Ninth Hour

As on Monday, pp. 418, 423 *with a proper Psalm and a proper Gospel.*

Thursday of the Great Passover
Evening Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

Christ who by Your Passover have ended the Passover of the lamb
rejoice us with Your Passover and be gracious to all. *3 times*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven....

Opening Prayer

Lord Our God, make us worthy
to celebrate this festival of Your Holy Passover,
not with the old and bitter leaven of those who celebrated
without understanding the meaning of Your Feast and condemned You,
O Lover of Humankind,
but with the unleavened bread of purity and holiness,
offering You a Passover and a feast which will be pleasing to You
by its righteousness
and then we will be worthy of Your own joy
and delighted with the sweetness
of the victory of Your own right hand,
and we will offer You praise and thanksgiving,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalms

104	(103)	Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great You are...
41	(40) 1-10	Happy the man who considers the poor...

RESPONSE

You suffered Yourself to be spat upon by the rabble,
and freed the nations from untruth.
Be gracious to all, O God.

By the oil of a sweet scent
You anointed the Holy Church.
Be gracious to all, O God.

You received the sinful woman
and granted her forgiveness
Be gracious to all, O God.

Be compassionate towards Your people
and be reconciled with Your flock.
Be gracious to all, O God.

All that Your will has created
lifts up praise to Your majesty.
Be gracious to all, O God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

Today the Saviour who knows all that is hidden,
reveals the mystery of His death,
that one of His disciples shall deliver Him to the rulers
and by this shall lose his life of his own will.

Today He sends Simon and John
to prepare the Passover lamb for Himself.
The Lord of Mysteries, of His own will,
makes Himself a victim for our salvation.

Today our Lord reveals to His disciples the Hidden Mystery:
"One of you will betray Me and sell Me for silver.
But woe to that man, it would have been better for him
if he had never been born!"

Today Simon and John go to the Holy City to prepare the lamb
for the Lord of the Passover and of sacrifices.
And the Glorious Mysteries are accomplished in the upper room.

The Lord of all said to His disciples,
"You will be in sorrow and distress because of My sorrow:
indeed, one of you will betray Me."

O God, who suffered in Your body for the Church
and saved her from error, make to cease in her divisions and rivalries.
And may Your peace and calm reign in the four quarters of the world.

Glory to You, Jesus our King, Innocent who saved us by Your Cross
and tasted death for the human race and made Adam to return,
to the place of his inheritance. And he sings praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Mystery Hidden and Ineffable, who was manifested in the flesh, who was proclaimed in the world and believed in, and accepted by the nations, Him let us and all the children of the Mystery of Faith, thank and adore and praise, at this time of evening...

We praise You, Lord of the Mysteries, Christ our Saviour, who were spoken of in Mysteries by the prophets. Abraham desired to see Your day and saw it and rejoiced, when on the summit of the mountain You revealed Yourself to him, a glorious manifestation, in the ram which was offered in sacrifice instead of Isaac and delivered him from the knife. You also manifested Yourself beautifully to Moses in the Mystery of the lamb offered in the evening as a ransom for the firstborn of Israel. It is You, Lamb of God, who on Your Cross bore the sin of the world.

After eating with Your disciples the lamb prescribed by the law, and celebrating the Mystery of the Passover, You made them understand that the prefiguration was now to be fulfilled, and the foreshadowing was to yield to the light, and the truth be manifested. "I have a Mystery. I have a Mystery, I and the children of My household, a New Mystery which is revealed to them." And taking the bread in Your holy hands and having blessed and broken it, You gave it to Your disciples, the children of Your Mystery, saying: "This is my body which is broken for many and is given for the sins of the world." And You mixed the cup, from wine and water, and gave it to them to drink, saying: "This is the cup of the New Covenant in My blood. Take and drink of it all of you. Do not doubt that I sacrifice Myself and consecrate Myself for you. From this time the old order has passed away and all things have become new. Do this in memory of Me." O the wonderful Mystery, living and life-giving! O the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, and by whom we are saved! O the Great Passover that rejoices the nations by His death! O the Victim that is offered! How great is this Mystery for those who understand, an astounding story for those who experience it! The Church receives this revelation. She who is the gathering of the nations receives this Mystery with faith, and treasures it, and upholds if before the world. In this Mystery she eats the living and undivided body, and drinks with love the life-giving cup, yet restrains from prying into it.

Lord, by Your Holy Mysteries, may Your Church always be under the protection of Your Cross against the envy of the Evil One. Make her work with You for the removal of all evil from the creation and for the sharing of Your boundless love with the whole world that she may attain the highest understanding of Your Mysteries as John did, who rested on Your breast, today, at supper. And we all will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

This evening our Lord spoke to His disciples of His Passion.
He was to suffer death on account of the children of Adam,
at the hands of the people who rejected Him.
Though He was without sin they nailed Him to the Cross,

with sinful men, Praise for His great love.
He whose being is infinite, humbled Himself, emptied Himself,
allowing Himself to be seized by wicked men and held by them,
to be condemned at the seat of judgement.

Our Lord said to His disciples, "One of you will betray Me.
I am sad because of him for he will go and hang himself,
evil tares sown by the Evil One in the field of corn.
As good husbandmen, root up evil from your midst.
Woe to the faithless disciple who betrays his Master.
When the ship was about to enter the harbour,
the Evil One made it sink and all the merchandise was lost."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Today the blessed company of the disciples is sad,
when the Saviour says to them,
"One of you shall betray Me into the hands of wicked people
and I will suffer from them the Passion and the Cross."
Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, the deceitful disciple,
and he went to the priests and promised to betray his Master.
And he received thirty pieces of silver,
the price of the cord with which he hanged himself.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today a veil of sorrow comes down on the disciples
when they hear Christ say, "One of you shall betray Me."
They begin to look at one another asking, "Who is it?"
The Lord replies "It is he who puts his hand into the dish."
Praise for Your abasement, You who humbled Yourself,
and suffered Yourself to be sold like a slave by Your disciple
to deliver us from slavery.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
He is the Sacrifice that could not be offered in His divine nature
so He offered Himself in sacrifice to His Father
in His human nature for the sake of the world stained by sin,
so that satisfaction was made to the Divinity
while humanity was purified.

Purify us now, Lord, by this incense which we offer to You,
in our weakness, on this festival of Your Great Passover.
Strengthen our wills that we may always offer ourselves
as proper victims, sincere and well-pleasing to Your Divinity.

Second Hymn

On the eve of His Passion Christ fulfilled the Mosaic Passover
with a heart filled with bitter suffering.
Is it not written that bitter herbs should be used?
The promise was made, but the symbol was kept secret.
Who would not weep at such a word?
The Twelve were also grieved and distressed
because the Son of God gave Himself to men of dust,
halleluia, halleluia, and they took hold of Him.

On Wednesday and Thursday before the Passover
our Lord revealed the Hidden Mystery to His disciples:
"Behold we are going up to the Holy City.
I will soon be delivered into the hands of the people
and the Son of Man will be lifted up on the tree of the Cross,
for guilty Adam who transgressed the commandment,
halleluia, through Me he is restored to his former glory."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On the Great Day of the Feast,
the disciples came to our Lord privately and asked Him,
"Where do You wish that we should prepare the Passover?"
The lamb should be entirely eaten between the two evenings,
according to the custom received from Moses when the people
came out of Egypt. By this lamb the sons of Israel obtained the victory,
they were set free, halleluia. It was a symbol of You, our Lord.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Wednesday and Thursday of the Passover
wicked people plotted against the Lord of the Worlds.
Caiaphas prophesied the glorious death on the Great Feast.
"It is better that one man die for many than the whole people perish."
All agreed, halleluia, to put Jesus to death,
He who gives life to all.

On Thursday the Son of God
sent two holy apostles to prepare the Passover for Him.
Simon Peter and John the Elect were sent like Moses and Aaron.
And when their Master came, His countenance began to shine.
He blessed the Passover and announced that He would suffer
in His own person, of His own will, halleluia, halleluia.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

This evening the pure lambs, the children of the right hand,
were astounded when He who reads the hearts of men
revealed the Hidden Mystery:
"One of you shall betray Me to the wicked."

The Good One delivered Himself to death,
fulfilling the symbol figured by Isaac.
He sacrificed Himself and delivered Isaac from the knife
and raised Adam from his fall.

The High Priest and Holy Mediator who receives all offerings
comes to the Feast like a spring which makes life to flow
to all who look upon Him, and He bestows health on those who ask.

"I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you
before I suffer. I have to suffer and fulfil all the symbols
and oracles of the prophets concerning Me."

Glory to the Good One who bore our wickedness to renew our race
and by His crucifixion, His death and His sacrifice took away
the power of Death over us, and rose and raised us from the fall.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

When the feast of those who wished to crucify Him had come,
the Lamb prepared Himself, of His own will.
The disciples approached Him and said to the Master,
who in His compassion had lowered Himself,
"Lord, where do You want us to prepare the Passover for You?"

On this day our Saviour ate the lamb
and fulfilled the Mysteries of Moses
which were a figure of His sacrifice,
who by His death gives life to sinners.

In your house are fulfilled the Mysteries
which the prophets declared concerning Me.
It is for you that I sacrifice Myself, in person,
for the happiness of all nations.
It is for you that I take the Church as My bride
which I betrothed from all eternity.
It is in your house that I seal the marriage with My precious blood.

Glory to You, O Lord of Graciousness,
who exalt us by Your humiliation.
Glory to You Firstborn of the Father,
who heal us by Your wounds
Glory to You and to Your hidden Father,
and to Your Holy Spirit, exaltation.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

Those who hate Me stand against Me.
They charge Me with faults.

Lev	16 : 1-4	The sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
	6 - 10	
	20 - 22	
Jr	5 : 20-31	This people have a rebellious heart.
Ac	21 : 27-36	Paul arrested in the Temple.

Verse before the reading of Saint Paul

Bind the sacrifice to the horns of the altar.

Heb 10:1-18 Christ's single sacrifice.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He who ate My bread,
My own disciple in whom I trusted, has betrayed Me.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I will bind the feasts with chains
to the horns of the altar.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 6:63-71 Jesus reveals His foreknowledge of Judas' betrayal.
Lk 22:1-6 Judas plots with the high priests to betray Jesus.
Mt 26:15-16

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with pain and sorrow, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation."

Christ our God, who for a long time had revealed Your love through the prophets, and You sent them as clouds of rain to the vine of Israel, and at the end through Your apostles manifested Yourself in truth to the whole world, sealing by Your Death and Resurrection the revelations of the seers, prompt Your Churches to make Your love ever more present among all peoples and nations, that all may strive for real happiness and true freedom, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ our God, who lowered the heights of Your Majesty to the extreme limit of humiliation to save Adam who had fallen away from You through sin, bring together the whole human family, with its Churches, its living faiths and its nations, and through Your Holy Spirit prompt them to live in harmony, sharing fairly among all, the good things of Your Creation, as You Yourself call us, today, to share Your own body and blood, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ our God, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit dwell in unapproachable light and came to dwell and mingle with us on this planet earth, lead the whole world in the light of Your word and unite all peoples by the power of Your love, of which Your holy body and precious blood are the pledge and the seal, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ our God, who today, at supper with Your disciples, made present for ever in Your Churches, all over the world, the Mystery of God's sacrificial love for our race, may the celebration of Your Passover dispel from them, all fear and confusion, all frustration and weariness, all discord and disunity, and may all believers experience Your Memorial as a ray of hope, a spark of love, a live-spring of enlightenment and communion, we beseech You:

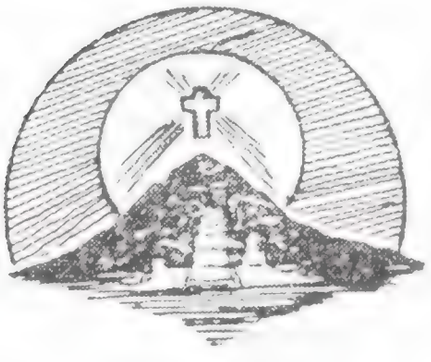
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, make us worthy by Your grace to suffer with You, and with You to be glorified and to be joined with You in Your abode of life, in eternal light, we beseech You, and will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

MEDITATION



Service of Protection for the Night

As on Monday, p. 386

Thursday of the Great Passover Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise Blessed are You, Christ, who humbled Yourself... p. 378

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer and Night Psalms

As on Monday, p. 391

RESPONSE

With those on high, the great powers of the angels,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You as we say,
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

With the Winged Creatures we bless You.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, O Lover of Humankind.
With the angels we bow to You in adoration.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

The Lord of the heavenly ones appeared in the tribunal
that through His love He might free all.
And He endured death for our salvation.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

Our Saviour called Simon Peter and John
and sent them to prepare the lamb in the upper room.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

Our Saviour broke His living and sacred body, mixed His blood,
and gave them to the company of the disciples
saying to them, "Like this, You also must do."

Our Saviour made known that His time had come
when He sent Peter and also John with him,
to prepare for Himself the meal prescribed by the law.

On the day of the Son's Passion,
let us all share in His sufferings and cry out saying,
"Thanksgiving to the Lamb who was slain for us."
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Word simple and spiritual in His nature...
As on Monday, First Watch, p. 392

Hymn

On this night our Lord, in great pain and sorrow,
said to His disciples, "I desire very much
to eat this Passover Meal with you before I suffer."
And He took bread into His hands, and having said the blessing,
He broke it and gave it to them. And He gave thanks over the chalice
saying, "This is My life-giving blood, which is shed for you
and for all those who believe in Me."

The disciples were much grieved, sadness and pain
filled their hearts when our Saviour said to them,
"One of you will betray Me." They looked at one another, scared.
John leaned over and said to the Lord,
"Which one of us is like a thorn among the wheat?
Which one is fighting against us?"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On this night Judas the traitor called on the chief priests.
"How much will you give me?" he said,
"If I deliver Jesus into your hands?"
"Thirty pieces of silver," they said.

O the price of the precious Lord!
Woe to him who lost his soul listening to the Devil
who put in his heart to deliver his Lord to the crucifiers!

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Son who humbled Himself
for the salvation of Adam and his children
saw the Cross of shame prepared for Him
and knowing the hidden treachery of the wicked people,
He revealed the Mystery to His disciples.
Yet they would be comforted on account of Him.
He would rise from the tomb after three days
and confound and scatter the adulterous generation
that did not receive Him.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

In the month of April the earth is adorned
with all kinds of flowers and beautiful roses,
but a crown of thorns crowns the head of Him
who creates all flowers, and He is led to the Cross.

The lover of money sold his Lord
for the piece of rope of the hangman.
He looked like the other disciples yet, full of malice,
he was waiting for the opportunity to commit his crime.

The companies of the angels tremble
seeing the mockery endured by their Lord.
He who judges the worlds
stands humbly, in silence, before His judges.

They laid thorns, brushwood and brambles upon the Fire
that illumines the world, trying to extinguish it.
They went to seize Him and He withheld His power,
allowing those who were of straw to touch Him
without being consumed by His blazing radiance.

Your glory surpasses the praises of all mouths,
of those in heaven and those on earth.
The Fiery Ones hallow You, the Winged Creatures bless You,
and the earthly ones redeemed by Your blood
adore You and offer praise and thanksgiving.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

On this glorious feast, the disciples are sent by You,
Master of Truth, the sheep are sent to prepare the lamb
for the Passover meal and fulfil the symbols prefigured in the law.
On this holy feast the sheep set the lamb before You.
It is good to come and see You, the Life-giving Lamb of God.

This glorious feast cries out to Moses who entered into silence.
It makes a sign to Aaron who has gone to his rest. The sword is
condemned and ordered back into its place. How humble You are,
O Compassionate One! How gentle, O Lover of Humankind! The
Wakeful Ones marvel at Your humility and the angels at Your gentleness.
A great mystery is Your emptying of Yourself!
A marvel Your kindliness!

Do this in memory of Me. The great Mystery, the Mystery of faith.
The wisdom hidden in our Mysteries is the Wisdom of God,
the Wisdom predestined to be for the glorification of God and Man,
the Wisdom that none of the masters of this world has ever known,
or they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

We contemplate that which no eye of flesh has seen,
nor has the ear heard, nor has the heart of man ever conceived,
what God Himself has prepared for those He loves.
No one comprehends the love of God but the Spirit of God.
And to those who possess the Spirit of God, God's wisdom is imparted,
the Spirit that reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Our Lord ate the Passover lamb with His disciples.
With the bread that He broke He put an end to the unleavened bread.
The bread of Him that vivifies all, gives life to the nations.
The Church gives us the life-giving bread, not the unleavened bread,
as Mary gave us the life-giving bread
in place of the bread of sorrows inherited from Eve.

Glory to You, O Lover of Humankind,
from the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.
The two worlds offer praise to You
for You have removed the wrong-doers from their midst,
Satan from the dwelling of the angels
and Iscariot from the company of the disciples.
The Church makes confession to You in their name
for she obtains peace through Your Cross
and offers praise and thanksgiving
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He who ate My bread,
My own disciple in whom I trusted, has betrayed Me.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I will bind the feasts with chains
to the horns of the altar.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt. 26:17-30 The Passover Meal made into the Eucharist.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Praise

At this time of the night we confess and adore
Christ who saved us by His Passion and His humiliation. *3 times*

Our Father in heaven...

Psalm 43 (42) Vindicate my cause, O God...
Response and Eucharistic Prayer, p. 399-401

Praise... to God the Word who was knit together with the flesh...
As on Monday, Third Watch, p. 400

Hymn

Today our Lord fulfilled all the signs of the prophets,
He endured sufferings and reviling, mocking and a slap in the face.
At last He was condemned to death,
and by His condemnation He removed ours.

"I am about to suffer," said the Lord to His disciples.
"The Father sent Me to suffer, yes, even to die.
But do not be troubled about My death,
for I will rise again from the tomb."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Beloved, we should shed tears over the death of our Lord,
but more so over our own sins,
for they are the cause of His sufferings. Woe to us
for they required the price of His precious blood!

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

My Beloved, do not be troubled over My words,
because I told you that I am going to My Father.
If I do not go, I cannot send you the Holy Spirit.
My Father and I are with you, even to the end of the world.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I will bind together all the feasts as with chains,
bind them to the horns of the altar.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 7:25-30 Jesus at the Festival. Is He the Messiah?

Hymn *Madrosho of Mar Ephrem the Teacher*

Refrain to be repeated after each stanza.
Glory to Christ who came to the Passion
and by His death gave life to the children of Adam.

The lamb of the Passover was slain in Egypt
and the Lamb of Truth was sacrificed in Jerusalem.
Let us meditate on these two lambs
and see how they are alike and in what they differ.

Let us evaluate and compare their glories.
One is a symbol, the other is reality.
And the symbol is only a shadow,
but the Lamb of Truth is fulfilment.

The blood of the Lamb of God
freed the nations from untruth as from Egypt.
Many lambs were sacrificed,
but one alone defeated the powers of tyranny.

Many lambs were offered at the feasts,
but one only overcame untruth.
What was symbolized in Egypt becomes true in the Church.
And the final reward will be in the Kingdom.

The Lord ate the Passover lamb with His disciples.
By the bread which He broke the Passover lamb came to an end.
His bread that gives life to all, gives life to the nations.
Instead of the Passover lamb they eat Him who died.

The Church gives us the bread of life,
instead of the unleavened bread given in Egypt.
Mary gave us the bread of life,
not the bread of sorrows given by Eve.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

The Mighty Lord who gives life to every creature is whipped.
The wicked were not afraid to whip Him
who suffered their beatings for Adam's sake.

The lambs gave up the Passover lamb
to offer the Divine Lamb. Bewildered, they ask Him,
"Who is it who will betray You? Tell us, reveal this to us."

You left the radiant angels and the enlightened spirits.
Your graciousness pressed You to abase Yourself. You loved Adam
so much, that You were brought to judgement in his place.

Living Victim, Adorable Lamb, Son and Saviour,
Joyful Peace, Purifying Blood, Word of Life,
You are the Protection of the people who offer praise to You,
and the Judge of those who do not believe in You.

Glory to Your strength, You who endured great torments
for Your weak creatures.
You have manifested Your power to the creation,
You are exalted with Your Father and the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

Our Lord is both High Priest and Peace-offering.
He sacrifices Himself for His disciples.
Behold, He dies, yet He lives.
He is the Priest and the Offering that surpasses all.

The fattened calf is ready for the great sacrifice.
All peoples who desire Him may take their delight in Him.
Acceptable Victim, You went up to the place of sacrifice
and You offered Yourself for us and for the whole world.

With His hands He broke His body and gave it to the Twelve.
Had they not seen it, He would not have broken it.
The priest, among His disciples, performed the service,
a model of priestly function to be imitated by them.

Glory to You, High Priest and also Victim and Fruit,
Lamb and Shepherd, Offerer and Receiver. We adore You with
Your Father, Indivisible and Eternal, and with the Holy Spirit.
Triune Light and Holiness.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Praise

At this time of the night we confess and adore
Christ who saved us by His Passion and His humiliation. *3 times*

Our Father in heaven...

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His incomparable wisdom...

As on Tuesday, Night Vigil, Third Watch, p 440

Hymn

Come, Prophet Isaiah, tell us how the Spirit
revealed to you the death of the Son?
As a lamb they led Him to the slaughter
and as a sheep before the shearer He kept silence.
He humbled Himself and exalted His Church.
He was slapped in the face and freed her children.
Glory to Him who came to save us
by the blood flowing from His side.

With the eye of prophecy the Prophet saw God
standing as the accused in the tribunal,
a crown of thorns upon His head,
clothed in a garment of scorn, an object of mockery.
He said to Him: "Why do You suffer all this?"
Praise to God who suffered for us,
and is compassionate for all and gracious to all.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Living Lamb of God, for our salvation,
descended from His heavenly dwelling.
He came to His Father's vineyard seeking fruits of recognition.
But the wicked labourers saw Him and thought:
He is the Lord. Let us kill Him and have the inheritance.
Blessed be He who was betrothed to the Church.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The mountains and hills are moved,
the guardians of the heavens and the heavenly companies
together with those on earth tremble at the words of the Son
to His Father Most High who sent Him.
How bitter the chalice prepared by the Father for the Son!
Father, I would that this cup might pass from Me.
But let it be done according to Your will.
I shall die and rise again to give life to humankind.

FOURTH WATCH

The sanctuary lamps are lighted and the curtain drawn aside

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.13

Mary's Hymn of Praise and Thanksgiving

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord.
My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He has looked on His servant in her nothingness.
Henceforth all generations will count me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is holy and His graciousness
is from age to age on those who revere Him.

He has conquered by His mighty arm
and has scattered the proud-hearted.
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
but He has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but sent the rich away empty.
He has helped Israel His servant
remembering His graciousness,
as He had promised to our forefathers
to Abraham and to his seed for ever."

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
You are beyond understanding and beyond words, O Mother of God.
You who are in time gave birth to Him who is beyond time.
Virgin Mother of God, we all praise you.

O Lord, in Your love You gave Your body and Your blood
to Your disciples in the upper room and You said to them,
"Take and eat My body, drink My blood for your purification."
O Lord, to You all praise.
Christ, in Your love You said to Your disciples,
"I have long desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer,
that I may give you the Holy Spirit and life eternal."

In the upper room our Lord sat down with His disciples.
Like a servant He poured water and washed their feet.
Then He said: "Do likewise to each other."

With awe, all the believers
venerate the adorable Trinity, three equal in nature.
We exalt You in songs of praise with adorations.

Psalm 133 How good and beautiful it is for brothers...p.14

RESPONSE Remember Mary, and may she help us by her prayers...

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

All from the Common Prayers: Service of the Communion of Saints, p. 14

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Word of the Eternal Father who lowered Himself to dwell in the womb of the Virgin and was clothed in flesh from her and came forth from her womb. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We salute you, Mary, Mother of God, light never extinguished, Mother and Virgin. It is through you that He comes, He who in the Holy Gospel comes in the name of the Lord. It is through you that the Trinity is blessed, that the Cross is worshipped throughout the world. Through you the Enemy is defeated and the fallen head of the creation is re-elevated to heaven, and all the creation returns to the knowledge of the truth. Through You all the faithful obtain baptism and the oil of joy. Through You Churches are founded in all the world and peoples obtain conversion because through You that Uniquely-Beloved Son of God illumines with His light those who are in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Therefore we beg of you, O Mother of Graciousness, that you will intercede with your Son and your God, and obtain for us that repentance which crucifies sin, and compunction which brings blessedness, that like you, with all the saints, we may experience the bliss of the beatitudes. Through virginity and poverty, sobriety and watchfulness may His disciples radiate in this homeland of asceticism and contemplation the

spiritual beauty of the Gospel, that through unceasing prayer and humble service, they may attain the heights of divine love, to be in truth, like your Son, Jesus, sons of the Father and brothers to all men, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Twelve gathered in the upper room
with the Blessed Virgin Mary to celebrate the Mysteries.
Because He willed it, one of them was struck down and perished,
the one who sold the Fruit of Blessedness.
The wicked one crushed the fruit but it gave a delicious wine.
Sinners drink it and are revived, for their sins are forgiven.
Blessed is He who built the Church and dwells in it.

Hear, how the council of the high priests treated the Lord.
He allowed them to pass safely through a vast sea,
but they stripped Him of His garments and cast lots for them. He gave
them manna in the desert and made water to flow from the rock,
but they gave Him vinegar and gall when He was thirsty.
Blessed is He who overthrew them who crucified their Lord.

If the earth had a heart it would be fitting for it to weep for Judas.
who sold away the Most High who fed thousands in the desert
and cured the sick woman who touched the hem of His robe.
He broke His body and offered His blood in the upper room
but in return for all this and for the washing of the feet
Judas gave his Lord the traitor's kiss and delivered Him to death.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

In remembrance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
we rejoice and sing praise to the Son of the Good,
born to her in order to free us from condemnation.
He was beaten in the tribunal to redeem us
and to restore the Heavenly Kingdom to Adam and his children.
He freed the nations by his blood and His bride, the Church,
rejoices and His Mother sings His glory.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

May the remembrance of the just who loved the truth
and of the saints who died for the love of the Son of God be a blessing.
May they be a harbour of help for sinners who repent.
With us may they beseech for all, Christ who dwells in their bones,
for compassion and graciousness on the day of the manifestation
of His Sovereignty, and give us an open face before the throne
of His Divinity, that we may sing praise to Him by night and by day.

May our fathers and brothers who slept and left this life in time
rest until the day of the resurrection. Give them peace, Lord,
in the abodes of light and may their bones in their tombs feel
that remembrance is made of them. When Your word makes to rise
the children of the earthly Adam, may they be clothed with beauty,
and enter the wedding feast with You and offer praise to You
who are the resurrection.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

His mighty power restrains the angels from bursting into anger
against the crucifiers, from heaping burning coals upon the impudent,
from destroying the wicked who disgraced the Son who saved them.

How could the human family repay the Son of God who suffered for us?
Even if we died a myriad of times, we could not make up for our debt.
Let us confess His name that we may be enriched by Him.

Though He was divine Jesus prayed full of fear and terror,
and the Father sent an angel to strengthen Him.
On account of His human nature He experienced all that we feel.

The scribes and the leaders of the people were afraid, and they cried out,
"Jesus must die. He has violated the Sabbath and broken the Law."
The Son of God stood pondering, as a son of man He was the son of Mary.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

Our Lord reclined with His twelve disciples in the upper room,
He took bread into His hand, signed it, said the blessing
and consecrated it and gave it to the company of His disciples,
while comforting them with these words, "This is My body, truly.
Whoever eats it will have life in himself. Take it, all of you,
and eat what My word has consecrated.
What I give you now, do not regard it as bread.
Eat it reverently. Do not disregard even the crumbs,
for this is the heavenly bread that has come down
from highest heaven to these lower regions.
Eating this bread, you eat My body for I am the bread of life."

When the disciples had eaten the life-giving, holy bread,
and truly understood that they had eaten the body of Christ.
He took the cup of wine and mixed it
and again blessed it, and consecrated it with a sign,
and He gave thanks for it as for His blood poured out,
"This is My blood in truth poured out for all men.
You all take and drink from it. This is My New Covenant
sealed by My death, thus see that whenever you do this
you do it in remembrance of Me."

Happy are those who saw You, our Lord, taking bread
into Your hands to make it Your holy, life-giving body,
confirmed by Your death for the salvation
of the generations to come, for the life of Your worshippers
who believe in Your holy power. When You gave it
to Your disciples it was a bread full of the medicine of life.
Judas also took it but it was a bread of death.

Glory to You, our Lord, who are of heaven.
The awesome Fiery Ones hallow You, crying out to You:
"Holy, Holy." Blessed be Your glory in Your place,
You who in Your graciousness willed to lower Yourself
for Your Passion, Your death and humiliation.

Glory to You who do not deprive the wicked from Your help.
Glory to You from all those You have created,
those who are the beauty and glory of the creation.
Glory to You from all mouths who ate Your holy body.
Glory to You from those who drank
Your precious and propitiatory blood.
Glory to You and to the Father who sent You,
and to the Holy Spirit exaltation.
And for us, sinners forgiveness, at all times. Amen. Amen.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He who ate My bread,
My own disciple in whom I trusted, has betrayed Me.

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I will bind the feasts with chains
to the horns of the altar.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 12:23-36 Jesus foretells His death and subsequent glorification.

MEDITATION

Thursday of the Great Passover
Morning Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

At this time of morning we confess You and we adore You
Christ who saved us by Your passion and Your humiliation. *3 times*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

Opening Prayer

Lord Our God, make us worthy
to celebrate this festival of Your Holy Passover,
not with the old and bitter leaven of those who celebrated
without understanding the meaning of Your Feast and condemned You,
O Lover of Humankind,
but with the unleavened bread of purity and holiness,
offering You a Passover and a feast which will be pleasing to You
by its righteousness
and then we will be worthy of Your own joy
and delighted with the sweetness
of the victory of Your own right hand,
and we will offer You praise and thanksgiving,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 Be gracious to us O God... *As on Monday,* p. 405

RESPONSE
Beloved, let us be wrapped in suffering
on this day of the Life-giving Passion.
Let our hearts cry out about the terrible deed
which the sons of darkness perpetrated today.

Our Lord, who could thank You enough
for Your humiliation for the sake of our race?
Your graciousness lifted You up on the Cross
for the sake of guilty Adam.

The vine which went forth from Egypt,
with mighty deeds, portents and signs,
behold it has been ravaged
and those who pass by trample it underfoot.

Blessed is He who turned to the nations,
and opened to them the way of salvation,
and betrothed the Church. And now she sings praise.

Today the disciples came to our Saviour saying,
"Where would You like us
to prepare for You to eat the Passover."

Psalms 63, 19, Hymn for God's victory, with their RESPONSES
As on Monday, p. 407-410

Psalm 53 *As here below.*
The fool thinks in his heart,
There is no God, above.
Their deeds are corrupt, depraved,
not a good man is left.

God looks down from heaven
on the sons of men,
to see if any are wise,
if any seek God.

All have left the right path;
depraved, every one.
There is not a good man left,
no, not even one.

Will the evil-doers not understand?
They eat up My people
as though they were eating bread;
they never pray to God.

See how they tremble with fear
without cause for fear:
for God scatters the bones of the wicked.
They are shamed, God rejects them.

O that Israel's salvation might come from Jerusalem!
When God delivers His people from bondage,
then Jacob will be glad and Israel rejoice.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
Today, our Lord, dipped the bread in the dish,
and gave it to Iscariot,
and all the disciples knew who would betray Him.

Today our Lord said to His disciples,
"Whoever eats My body and drinks My blood
and believes in Me, will live for ever."

Today as John leaned on His breast during the meal,
the watchers in heaven were filled with wonder
and they blessed Him.

Today the wicked forged the spear and the nails
to pierce the hands and feet and the side
of Him who gives life to all.

Today heaven and earth and all that they contain
weep over the deceitful Iscariot
who sold his Master.

Mary's Song *As at the Night Vigil, Third Watch, p.*486

RESPONSE
Today our Lord said to the beloved company of the Twelve,
"I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you
before I suffer and so bring prophecy to fulfilment.

Today our Lord took bread in His holy hands and blessed it
and made a sign on it to consecrate it and gave it to the company
of His apostles who believed that He is the Son of God.

Today let us offer thanksgiving and adorations to Jesus our King,
who suffered for us and saved our race from deceit and offers
His holy body and His life-giving blood in atonement for the world.

The Cosmic Praise *As in the Common Prayers, p.* 16

RESPONSE
The children of the Church praise You, that on Your Great Morning
they may rejoice in You with the just who loved You.
And we will offer praise, "Glory to You, O God."

Today You gave Your body and Your blood to Your apostles
and You entrusted to them the new commandment.
Therefore we will say, "Glory to You, O God."

The Church rejoices and her children sing praise
who are forgiven by Your holy body and Your precious blood.
And we will say, "Glory to You, O God."

Today all the priests, truly, offer thanksgiving to You,
because You are exalted by the sacrifices they offer.
And we will say, "Glory to You, O God."

Beloved, let us give thanks to Him who makes us eat
His body and blood, and who invites us to His Kingdom.
Therefore we say, "Glory to You, O God."

The Church and her children sing a new praise
to Him who delivers us by His blood of pardon.
And we will say, "Glory to You, O God."

All the children of the Church sing glory to You.
who save them from deceit and untruth.
And we will say, "Glory to You, O God."

The Beatitudes Mt 5:3-12, *As here below.*
Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men insult you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely, because of Me.
Then rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
How beautiful the Mystery our Lord revealed to His twelve apostles
when He told them about His passion and crucifixion
and that He came to taste death for our salvation.

How beautiful the word of the Son, Christ, when He said
to Simon Peter and John to prepare the Passover lamb for Him,
the Lord of the whole creation.

On this day, Thursday, our Lord sent two disciples
to prepare supper for Him, the Lord of Heaven,
because there was no place for Him to dwell.

Today our Lord said to His disciples, "I have greatly desired
to eat with you the Passover prefigured by Moses in Egypt.
With Me the Old is fulfilled and the New begins.

John, the noble virgin, leaned on the heart of the Son of God,
who willed to exalt sinners above the heavenly ones,
and thus showed how much He loved our race before we sinned.

Glory to the Father who sent us His Son, poor as we are,
the Son who endured the passion and crucifixion from the impious,
for the sake of Adam, to restore him to his former glory.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Bestower and Giver of feasts, who is the Fulness and the Perfection of all feasts, to Him who through the chains of prophecy bound our feasts to the horns of the first altar. To Him in whom is the end of feasts and of all celebrations and rejoicing, while He is pleased to be the Feast of feasts belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of morning...

Christ, Origin of all feasts and Fulfilment of all festivals, God of all gods and Lord of lords, when You saw Man, created by You to find his joy in You, estranged from You on account of sin and in such crude circumstances so as to be deprived of celebrations of joy in God, brought down as he was by the counsel of the Serpent, You the Good One, had compassion on Your creature. You could not endure that he should be lost, and You decreed that You should become Man in order to heal him. And again, in addition to Your Dispensation of becoming man, You ordained feasts that would heal him. And we all, through Your goodness, are counted worthy to assemble today to celebrate two Passovers.

We are filled with wonder and we marvel as we meditate on Your Divine Mysteries. The Mystery in which the unleavened bread prefiguring our renewal is eaten, while the leaven signifying our old nature is removed. The Mystery in which the Passover lamb signifies the Lamb of God

immolated, roasted and eaten, and of which no bone is broken, and nothing is left over in the morning. In all this is depicted a perfect image of our Mystery. The Mystery in which Egypt is despoiled prefigured the despoliation of the realm of error. In the Mystery of the divided sea, drying up and being flooded again is seen the movement of our passions. The Mystery in which Israel glories proclaims the glory of those who believe in God. The Mystery in which Pharaoh is afflicted shows the utter defeat of the Adversary. The Mystery in which Miriam sang at the parting and at the return of the waters evokes the spiritual songs of the Church, the Mystery of the passage from the old to the new, when we enter the upper room with the apostles and, through Your goodness, are refreshed at the table of life, not by eating unleavened bread, but Your holy body, not by taking our pleasure in the blood of the lamb, but in Your blood, God the Word.

Therefore on this heavenly and really divine feast on which, in Your graciousness, You come to us, we beseech You and entreat Your goodness, do not close Your ear to the prayers we offer to You but receive them and make this celebration to be for us a feast of fulfilment in our great want, a feast of sanctification for sinners, from Your own sanctity, a feast of purification from all pollution, a feast where the guilty are set right, a feast that heals diseases, a feast that brings consolation to the afflicted, a feast that brings together those who are scattered, feast that brings near those who are far off, a feast that protects those who are near, a feast that invites all, living and departed, to that feast ineffable, which does not pass away, at which, here and there, we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

On Thursday the Passover lamb was prepared in the upper room
by the disciples, as prescribed by the Law, and our Lord
reclined at supper with them to eat the lamb at the evening of the feast.
The True Lamb ate the figurative lamb to fulfil
all that had been written by the prophets, from the beginning,
halleluia, to lavish His love on us.

What a wonder that supper in the upper room,
when the disciples were reclining and the Lord served them!
He washed His hands and stood to serve them,
and sanctified them with His pure hands.
He rose to pray, and He broke His body and He gave it to them.
Also the cup of life, He mixed it and gave it to all to drink.
Halleluia, praise for His goodness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

When our Lord washed the feet of His servants,
Judas the betrayer, had his feet washed with the other disciples.
His feet were washed but his heart was not purified.
He was full of deceit and blind hatred.
The vulture mingled with the innocent doves,
the thorns with the wheat, the wolf with the lambs,
halleluia. Be it that he had been aware of his iniquity!

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The sea and the dry land and all that is in them weep over Judas,
at the time when he parts with the Master of Truth.
They ask him, saying with grief, "O apostle,
why do you look so agitated as you depart?
Why are you restless by day, and why do you like the darkness?
Why do you deprive yourself from that life which is for all eternity?
Halleluia, why do you choose to loose your life?"

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Sacrifice, You could not be offered in Your divine nature
but You offered Yourself in sacrifice to Your Father,
in Your human nature, for the world which had fallen into sin,
so that Divinity be reconciled and humanity purified.

Purify us now, our Lord, by this incense which we present to You,
poor as we are, on this feast of Your Holy Passover.
And strengthen our wills that we may offer ourselves to You,
at all times, in spiritual sacrifices without deceit,
and be reconciled with Your Godhead and we will give You glory.

Second Hymn

Glory to the Exalted One who descended from the cave of the heart
of His Hidden Father to humble Himself for our salvation.
He washed the feet of His disciples, the Maker of the Creation.
He who was with the Father from the beginning, Mary brought forth.
And He sits at His right. Glory to Him and to Him who sent Him.

When the disciples were eating the lamb, our Lord revealed
the Mystery of His Passion, and John the youngest of them,
who was near Him leaned on His breast and asked,
"Who is it my Lord, who will deliver You?"
Jesus gave him a sign saying, "He who dips his hand into the dish,
it is he who will betray Me to the treacherous priests."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All the disciples, from the youngest to the eldest had been washed
but when Jesus came to Simon Peter he exclaimed,
"You will not wash my feet." But our Lord replied,
"If you resist My will, you will have no part in Me."
Peter was troubled and he said to Jesus,
"Please wash my head also and my body, that I may be clean."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today Jesus took the cup in His holy hands
and gave thanks over it and consecrated it and gave it
to His disciples saying to them, "This is My life-giving blood,
take and drink of it all of you, that you and all who drink of it
may obtain life eternal in the Kingdom of Heaven.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

He made Joseph His witness
when He went forth to the land of Egypt.

Gn	37 : 12-28c	Joseph is sold and taken to Egypt.
Am	2 : 6-16	God's judgement on Judah, on Israel.
Ac	23 : 12-15	A plot against Paul's life.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
Listen, My people, for I will speak to you,
and Israel will be a witness to you.

1 Co 10:1-5 Spiritual charisms are often not well used.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Lord our God, enlighten us, and bind our festivals
with chains to the horns of the altar.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 14:12-16 Preparations for the Passover meal.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

He who descended on Mount Sinai with thunder and earthquake
and thick darkness, and Moses was made to shine because he saw Him,
today in the upper room breaks His body for the Twelve.

Today the lamb which was prefigured in Egypt
is given its fulfilment when the Life-giving Lamb
breaks His body and, with His own hands, shares it with the Twelve,
and delights them with the life-giving cup.

Blessed are You, Greatest among the priests.
All praises to You. How You endured the treacherous Judas!
And did not even shrink from giving him honour.
Blessed is Your Father with the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord, Your mystical symbol saved the Hebrews from destruction.
May Your body and Your blood be a stronghold against temptations,
for the church and her children,
And in You may we find the pardon of our sins.

All adorations to You, Lamb of the Mysteries,
Fulfilment of the prefigurations and Consummation of the sacrifices.
High priest and Peace-offering who sacrifice Yourself for our sake.
Blessed is He who sent You.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Resurrection,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Look with compassion on Your house and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

He who said, "This is My body," Who will not believe Him?
He who does not believe is not a follower of the apostles.
The apostles believed Him and when He was alive
and reclined with them at table, they ate Him.
That He died while He was alive, they knew without any hesitation.

Unless He had died, the bread could not be His body.
Unless He had suffered He could not have broken His body
to give it to His disciples.
Unless He had been put to death, how could they eat Him as they did?
And unless He was alive who could have distributed His body there?

They eat His body and He reclines with them at table.
They drink His blood and they listen to His word of instruction.
They believe that He had been put to death while they see Him alive
and speaking. And He is mingling with them while they eat Him,
without any doubt.

Glory to the Father who fulfilled the mysteries of prophecy.
Adoration to the Son who broke His body for the Twelve, and mixed
His blood, the life-giving cup, and gave it to them to drink.
And to the Holy Spirit, thanksgiving and adoration without any doubt.

Praise At this time of morning we confess You and we adore You...
As at the beginning of this Service, p. 492

Services of the Sixth Hour and the Ninth Hour

As on Monday, p. 418 and 423

Service of the Holy Washing

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord, God, that through the washing by this water we may be cleansed and purified from all bitterness and wickedness and from all stains of sin. Set us free from the passions of envy, pride, anger and all ill-feelings, on all the days of our life, Our Lord and Our God for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 Be gracious to us, O God... *As on Monday,* p. 405

RESPONSE

The Lord whom the Fiery Ones hallow with awe
today washes the feet of the disciples.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He whom the Winged Creatures bear with awe
bows His head before the disciples.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He on whom the Wakeful Ones cannot look
today washes the feet of the disciples.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He who is hidden in the heart of the Father
today washes the feet of the disciples.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He whom the angels serve in heaven,
in this world washes the feet of His disciples.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He who is clothed in a flame of fire wears a towel
round His waist and washes the feet of His disciples.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He who poured water into a basin
showed the way of humility.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He who showed us the sign of humility
made humility to ascend to heaven.
Be gracious to all, O God.

He who washed and sanctified the apostles
made them to proclaim His word.
Be gracious to all, O God.

Glory to the Father who sent His Uniquely-Beloved Son
and He came and washed the feet of His disciples.
Be gracious to all, O God.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the High One and Exalted in His own nature who lowered Himself to humiliation of His own will, and washed the feet of His disciples in His humility, and taught them the Hidden Mystery of His condescension, and gave them the law of truth and love entrusted to His Church. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the Holy Washing and at all times and seasons and hours and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, God the Word, Lord of those on high and those below, Devouring Fire, You are the Head of the living and God of all. In Your graciousness You wished to bend Your head before the dust, the work of Your hands, and You washed the feet of Your disciples and gave us the true testimony of Your humility in order that we may imitate it.

Grant therefore to Your servants, gathered here together in Your Name, that through this little water by which we wash the feet of each other, our souls may be cleansed from all stains and from all spots of sin. Protect us from pride and haughtiness and from those shameful passions which Satan made to enter into our race through His bitter deceit. Clothe us in patience and meekness, in gentleness and true love, give us sobriety, discernment and a clear insight of the mind to contemplate the Mystery of Your Humility and Perfect Love. And while making remembrance of Your Saving Passion and Life-giving Death, and celebrating the Feast of Your Glorious Resurrection, we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

How beautiful it was, that evening, when our Lord, the Living Fire,
made Himself the servant of His disciples, washing their feet,
one by one after taking a basin and girding Himself with a towel!
It was a great wonder, at the same time, that Judas was not burnt up?
halleluia, halleluia.

Our Saviour was exalted by this lowering of Himself,
when He came with a towel round His waist and wiped clean those
whom His hands had fashioned. And when He came to Simon Peter,
the disciple exclaimed, "Lord what are You doing, now?"
And our Lord answered, "Be quiet, Simon Peter. By my humiliation
I wish to make you aware of your light-mindedness.
Halleluia, halleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All the companies of heaven marvelled at this,
that God, the Son of God who is the King of glory,
He to whom bows the whole creation, heaven and earth,

humbled Himself to the ground. He bent down,
poured water into a basin and washed the feet of His disciples,
at supper, while the heights and the depths marvelled.
Halleluia, halleluia.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord took fresh water and poured it into a basin
and began to wash the feet of the disciples who were with Him.
And when He came to Simon, the disciple exclaimed,
"Never, my Master will you wash my feet." But Jesus said,
"If you do not allow me to wash your feet, you will not have part
in the Kingdom that does not pass away and shall not be destroyed,"
halleluia, halleluia.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Christ our God, You entrusted to us the Mystery of True
and Perfect Love which You realized first in Yourself,
and then showed us a model, and taught us to do to one another,
by serving one another in a beautiful and divine manner.

Do You, Lord, in Your goodness, receive
this sweet incense which we present to You.
Wash and purify us from the stains and the spots of sin,
with the purifying hyssop of Your graciousness,
and grant us to accomplish and fulfil Your divine commandments
with love, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and to follow You in humility of heart
that we may meet You with confidence,
on the day of Your manifestation, and we will offer You
praise and thanksgiving, our Lord and our God for ever.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

Today, the Son of God, took a towel, fastened it round His waist,
and washed and wiped the feet of His servants,
to wash and cleanse and purify them and make them sit at His table.

Our Lord said, "Unless I wash your feet, Simon,
like the feet of your companions, you are not My disciple.
If I do not serve you, you have no part in Me, no place at My side.

Let us offer praise to the Hidden Father. Adoration to the Son
who humbled Himself and washed the feet of the Twelve, to fulfil
the whole Economy. And to the Holy Spirit a garland of praise.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Cross,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Look with compassion on Your house and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

Unless you seek and receive My words as I tell you,
and be an apostle, that does not hesitate to be as I tell you,
unless you are a disciple according to My will,
unless you are like Me, how can you be My disciple?

Unless you are washed, you cannot have part in Me.
He who stands against My will sides with dissenters.
Unless you receive the new commandment which I taught you,
you cannot be a teacher to humankind.

Unless you listen to My words, the words I told you,
I will call another apostle, one who listens to My words.
Come, be washed and be My disciple, as you are.
If you are not washed you become a stranger among My followers.

Our Lord washed the feet of Simon, as He willed.
And through this, all of them came near our Saviour.
He bowed His head before His disciples as before a divine image.
He washed their feet and by His humiliation He enriched us.

Glory to the Father who called the apostles from the beginning.
Adoration to the Son who exalted them by His humiliation.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who filled them with all wisdom.
And on us graciousness, by their prayers, at all times.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

The Lord of Heaven humbled Himself,
washing the feet of His disciples.
He overthrew the pride of the Evil One,
and taught us humility.
Blessed is Your passion which You endured for us,
and Your humiliation for our sake.

Gn	18 : 1-8	Abraham welcomes the three angels and refreshes them with water and a meal.
Is	42 : 1-4	The Servant of the Lord is endowed with God's spirit to establish peace and righteousness.
1Jn	4 : 11-16	Since God loved us so much, we also should love one another...
1Co	13 : 4-13	Love is patient and kind, never jealous or proud...

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I washed My hands sincerely,
to go round your altar.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn	13:1-13	Jesus washes the feet of His disciples before the Last Supper.

Evangelist: (13:1-5a) Now before the Feast of the Passover when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And during supper, when the Devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands and that He had come from

God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside His garments, and girded Himself with a towel. Then He poured water into a basin.

The Officiating Minister after removing his garment and girding himself with a towel, says the Prayer over the Water:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
And on us weak and sinful servants,
mercy and compassion in both worlds for ever and ever. Amen.

Grant us, Lord God, to hear Your loving word, and to labour humbly in Your vineyard, in all the works of justice, and to please You by imitating You in washing each other as You showed us when You poured water in a basin and washed the feet of Your disciples. And this sign of humility was handed down in succession among all Your true disciples. Lord God, make us also worthy of Your compassion that we may be like You in humility, and be counted among Your servants, and be washed from all the stains of sin by this water. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Congregation repeats: Kurie eleison, Kurie eleison, Kurie eleison...

While the Officiating Minister says the following prayer secretly over the Water:

Lord God, Jesus Christ, Son and Word of God the Father, You who were born from the Holy Virgin Mary by a birth which is ineffable and who fulfilled all the Economy of Salvation in Your own person, so that You might set us, Your sinful servants, free from the servitude of the Enemy, do You make this water as the water by which You washed the feet of Your disciples.

He continues in a loud voice:

Lord who are the Creator of all creatures, visible and invisible, and who are praised in heaven by the angels with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You came in search of the sheep that was lost and carried it on Your holy shoulders and made it to enter into Your Father's house. Now,

Lord God, bless all Your servants who wash or who are washed, and also those who come near this water with faith, and purify us from the foulness of sin and from all transgressions, our Lord and our God for ever. Amen.

Ev (v. 5b): And He began to wash the feet of the disciples and to wipe them, with the towel with which He was girded.

As v. 5 of the Gospel is read the Officiating Minister begins the washing of the feet, beginning with the young and ending with the seniors.

At this time the Congregation sings appropriate songs.

While washing the feet the Officiating Minister says:
May the Lord God wash from you and all of us with You,
all the ways of the old man and renew you in spirit and in truth.
Amen.

While wiping the feet he says: - May the Lord wipe from you and from us,
all evil impulses and habits, and adorn us with purity and holiness,
our Lord and our God for ever. Amen.

Evangelist: (v. 6) He came to Simon Peter, and Peter said to Him:
Peter: Lord, do You wash my feet?
Evangelist: Jesus answered him,
Jesus: What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand.
Evangelist: Peter said to Him,
Peter: You shall never wash my feet.
Evangelist: Jesus answered him,
Jesus: If I do not wash you, you have no part in Me.
Evangelist: Simon Peter said to Him,
Peter: Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and head!
Evangelist: Jesus said to Him,
Jesus: He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not all of you.
Evangelist: For he knew who was to betray Him: that was why He said, "You are not all clean."

When the Officiating Minister has completed the washing of Peter's feet and has put on the cope and sits down, the Evangelist continues.

Evangelist: (v. 12) When He had washed their feet, and taken His garments, and resumed His place He said to them:

Jesus:

Do you know what I have done to you?
You call Me Master and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.
If therefore I the Lord, Lord and Master, have washed your feet,
You also ought to wash the feet of one another.
For I have given you an example,
that as I have done to you, so you also should do.
Amen, Amen, I say to you, no servant is greater than his master,
nor is one who is sent greater than he who sent him.
If you know these things blessed shall you be, if you do them.
I do not speak of you all. I know whom I have chosen
but that the Scripture may be fulfilled,
"He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me."
I tell you now before it comes to pass
that when it has come to pass you may believe that I am He.

All the Congregation stands and Peter washes the feet of the Officiating Minister who concludes with this prayer:

God the Father Almighty, Your Uniquely-Beloved and Holy Son commanded His blessed disciples when He washed their feet, saying to them, "So shall you wash one another's feet, in love, as true disciples." As we have fulfilled this divine command, washing one another's feet, may our hearts be filled with His love. May His grace descend upon us, and we be pardoned by His compassion and strengthened to perfect discipleship by His graciousness. May His love dwell in our bodies and in our minds and in our hearts, now and always and for ever. Amen.

After a short break the Evening Service of the Great Friday of the Crucifixion is celebrated, followed by the Passover Qurbana.

The Great Friday of the Crucifixion
Evening Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

Christ who by Your Passion and Death on the Cross
give life to us, mortals,
br gracious to all
and make us live in the light of Your life. *3 times.*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to Your Holy Spirit.
And on us sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven....

Opening Prayer

You who accomplish and fulfil the Mysteries,
by the Mystery of Your Passover You put an end to the Passover
and inaugurated the new rite of the Passover
while eating the ancient Passover.
Thus You made an end of sacrifices
with the shedding of blood which were not pleasing to You,
and You put an end to things which had grown old,
replacing them with that which is new,
the breaking of Your body in the upper room.
You, Lord of all that is new and Source of all good,
renew among us Your Great Passover on which You promised
to those who have shared Your sorrow and suffering
that they shall sit with You at Your table in Your Kingdom,
and with them we will offer You praise, now and always and for ever.
Amen.

TRIPLE ADORATION

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 59 (58) Rescue me, O God, from my foes...

RESPONSE

You who in Your own person, are Lord,
yet suffered for us in the flesh,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who came to fulfil in Your own person
the symbols and figures and parables,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who for our salvation
were led to the seat of judgement like a criminal,
be gracious to all, O God.

You against whom the powers of this world
leagued themselves to put You to death,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who are the Judge
of all those who exercised judgement unjustly,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who were delivered to the priests' crucifiers
by Your treacherous disciple,
be gracious to all, O God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us... page 5

RESPONSE

This evening the mysteries and parables of all the seers
come to fulfilment, and what remained hidden comes into the light,
as they are now fully revealed.

From among Your brothers the Lord will raise a prophet like to me
and he who shall not listen to Him
will cause Him to perish from the midst of the people.

It is He who is God and Prophet, Priest and Sacrifice
and Offering, offered and accepted,
and Fulfilment of all the Mysteries.

This evening our Lord ate the Passover in the upper room
and the disciples took their delight
in the Mysteries entrusted to them.

He blessed the bread and said the thanksgiving over it.
And to them He said: "This is My body."
He said the thanksgiving over the wine and consecrated it.
And to them He said: "This is My blood."

The Lord and the servants ate,
they partook of the Mysteries singing the praises,
and then went out to the Mount of Olives.
And there they received instructions.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who accepts sacrifices and who is the Lord of priests, who willed to be at the same time Priest and Victim. He who put an end to the symbols and fulfilled the Mysteries, on this evening fulfilled the symbol represented by Moses. He who offered Himself to the Father on behalf of all in an acceptable sacrifice, the Unfathomable, the Wonder-worker, while still living, divided His body in His hands on the table, and having mixed His blood gave it to drink to His disciples. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, in the evening of the Law, for those who were under the Law, You fulfilled in Your own person, by the light of the Gospel, the bearer of life, the image and the figure which Moses had mysteriously represented in the evening in Egypt. On this evening full of life You brought to light its full meaning. On this night You and Your disciples ate openly the Passover of Moses. You who are the Passover which sows joy in every man by the joyous splendour of Your Divinity. On this

evening which is the boundary separating the two Covenants You put an end to the Old and inaugurated the New. On this evening by washing in love the feet of Your disciples You manifested in Your abasement the perfection of Your humility, just as by the cloth with which You were girded You showed. Your graciousness towards humans rubbing and wiping their feet. You left them an example and taught them the sweetness of service and the duty of reconciliation. On this evening You divided with Your holy hands Your living body and gave it to eat to the sons of Your Mystery You mixed for them Your blood and gave them to drink, establishing thus the New Covenant with Your Holy Church. On this evening by the morsel of food dipped in wine You unveiled the treachery of Judas and made known to the disciples His perversion. On this evening You conferred the priesthood on the noble company of Peter's household, and they took charge of the Divine Treasure-house to distribute Your living body among the peoples and the nations, and to give Your blood to drink to all the tribes and races. Likewise today, on this evening, it is given in remission of sins to all the lands and countries according to Your commandment, Lord, to accomplish Your Life-giving Memorial.

Therefore we beseech You, Lord, our Lord, on this evening full of light, make us worthy to take our place at Your divine table, the source of life, in purity and holiness, free from all bitterness and anger and from all kind of ill-feeling. Keep our thoughts clear from any compromise with untruth and purify our hearts in the purifying waters of repentance of all faults and sins. Set our minds on fire with Your divine love, and with love for one another. Enlighten our understanding by the clear rays of Your teaching that we may take part in Your Life-giving Mysteries without incurring condemnation. But on the contrary, may they be for the remission of sins, the pardon of offences, the purification of body, soul and spirit, the raising of our minds to a deep and holy understanding, and the kindling in our hearts of the bright rays of holiness. And we will sing praise to You and offer thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

Armed with sticks wicked men surrounded the Saviour.
Simon Peter unsheathed his sword and cut off the ear of the servant.

The Lord took the ear and put it back in its place,
and reprimanded Peter for having drawn the sword, saying to him,
"If I had wished to fight them I could have brought legions of angels,
halleluia, halleluia, and I would have defeated them."

In the days of Moses the twelve tribes ate the Passover
first established by the Lord, and today, at the evening hour,
at the table of life of the Lord and reclining with Him
are the descendants of the sons of Jacob, the twelve, who in purity
bear and carry the Mystery which will not end, halleluia,
which remains for ever.

Glory be to the Father...

On this day the Lord showed new things to the disciples.
He fulfilled for them noble prefigurations and signs, and He
commanded them saying, "These Mysteries which I have celebrated
for you, celebrate them also, as they are, in all humility.
By this shall all know that you are My disciples.
halleluia, and that it is I who taught you."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today our Lord rose and took bread in His holy hands,
He said the blessing and consecrated it and gave it to His disciples
saying to them, "From now on do this, each time you gather together.
Do this in memory of My Passion, Death and the Cross,
which I received for the sake of the whole world, halleluia, halleluia."
Glory to You, Lord, who fulfilled the symbols of the prophets.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Praise to You, the Strong One
who experienced the feeling of fear to give courage to all.
Thanksgiving to You O God,
who prayed that the prayers of sinners might be accepted.
Out of love for Your human nature, accept now, our Lord,
the prayers and supplications and the perfume of this incense
which we offer to You at this time of evening.

May Your prayer for us give wings to our prayers
that they may come before the throne of Your Majesty
for our salvation, and by them grant us pardon,
that we may be reconciled with You after all our falls.
Give a generous response to all our requests
for You are our help and our refuge,
and we will sing praise and offer thanksgiving to You
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn
This evening our Lord took bread in His hands.
He broke it and gave it to His apostles.
He mixed also the cup of His blood and gave them to drink saying,
"Each time you meet together do this as I have shown you,
and it will be for the pardon of offences
and the forgiveness of sins for whoever believes in Me."

Today the Lord said to His disciples a word full of grief, "I have
greatly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."
And He took bread in His hands, said the blessing and broke it
and gave it to them. And He took the cup and gave thanks,
"This is My life-giving blood which is shed because of you,
for the remission of sins and offences, halleluia."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Today the Jews assembled, and the high priests and the Levites
took counsel concerning the Saviour,
to find out on what pretext they should condemn Him to death.
And then Judas Iscariot came to them and said,
"Give me the price of His blood and I will deliver Him to you."
Woe to Him who sold his Master and purchased the rope for himself.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the Lord revealed to His disciples the hidden Mystery
of His Passion saying to them, "Behold, I am going
to be betrayed into the hands of wicked people and to bear
great shame for Adam, the creature of earth seduced by the Evil One."
Blessed is He who willed to abase Himself to deliver us
from the slavery which the Adversary had inflicted upon us.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us,
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

The True Lamb is sacrificed. He eats and gives to eat to the Twelve.
It is most wonderful, He is sacrificed while He yet lives.
And those who eat His body do not dismember it,
He is reclining with them at supper.

At supper the True Lamb breaks His body for the Twelve
and shares with them the Mystery of His great suffering.
He causes the twelve lambs much pain
by announcing His coming separation from them.

The glorious elder Simon makes a sign to John, young man, virgin,
that he should ask the Master to tell them who is to betray Him.
Jesus answers by giving a sign, the mouthful dipped in wine
which He gives the miserable wolf to eat.

This evening our Lord spoke of His Passion and His Crucifixion,
and revealed to those He loved that one of them
should betray Him into the hands of the teachers of the people
who would put Him to death iniquitously.

The treacherous priests assembled.
The chiefs of the people laid a plot against the Living One.
They forged the nails. They raised the money for His blood,
the Rich One, who humbled Himself to save them.

Glory to Him who alone has power, whose power extends
in the heights and in the depths. To Him belong all powers.
It is He who rules everywhere. It is He who receives praise from all.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Cross,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Look with compassion on Your house and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy!

Moses immolated the Passover lamb in Egypt
the symbol of the Son for those who look at it mystically.
He seasoned the flesh of the Passover lamb with bitter herbs,
to show that suffering was in it, prefigured symbolically.

This evening therefore when all the prefigurations are accomplished,
is revealed why bitter herbs were eaten with the Passover lamb.
The death of the Lamb made bitter the mouths of the disciples,
the evening of the Passover lamb was filled with bitterness.

The story of His death is thrown there at table. How bitter
the news they hear and the story that is told them. The disciples
hear that their Master is to die at the hands of His people.
And sorrow fills the feast for which they were reclining at table.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Before the Passover Qurbana

Ex	12:1-14	Institution of the Feast of the Passover.
Ex	12:15-20	Instructions concerning the Passover celebration.
Ex	12:21-28	The Meaning of the Passover celebration: Commemoration of the liberation of Israel from slavery in Egypt.

Passover Qurbana

Ac	1:15-20	The fate of Judas.
1 Co	11:23-34	The Lord's Supper.
Lk	22:14-30	The Passover Meal and the Eucharist. The Betrayer. The disciples' dispute about rank.

Service of Protection for the Night

As on Monday, p. 386

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

Praise

Christ who by Your Passion and Death on the Cross
give life to us, mortals,
be gracious to us
and make us live in the light of Your life. *3 times.*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to Your Holy Spirit.
And on us sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven....

Opening Prayer

Pure, Spotless Lamb whom wicked people led to the slaughter
and You remained silent and quiet in Your humiliation,
and by Your sacrifice You bore the sin of the world,
grant us, our Lord,
to share in Your humiliation, in Your Passion and in Your Death.
that we may offer a sacrifice of praise
and rejoice on the day of Your Resurrection,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Psalm 109 (108): 1-5 and 21-31 O God whom I praise, do not be silent...

RESPONSE

Awake, beloved, and stand for prayer,
the time has come when the Son of Man
was delivered into the hands of wicked people.

Our Lord said to His disciples,
"Wait here for Me while I go over there to pray,
in great pain and anguish. I am distressed unto death."

That night He stood in prayer, the Wakeful One who never sleeps.
He made supplication like a son of man,
that the cup of death, might pass away from Him

That night, gangs of wicked men
came to Jesus, armed with swords and lathis
to seize the Lord who had cured their diseases.

That night, the soldiers out of mockery
bowed their heads to our Lord and said derisively:
"Hail, King of the Jews!"

On that night, who would not weep with Simon Peter,
he who swore on his life
that he did not know Christ.

Children of light, adore the three persons,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
The Only True God, Lord of angels and of men.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Word, simple and spiritual in His own nature...
As on Monday, Night Vigil, First Watch, p. 392

Hymn

When Judas deliberately took the morsel from the Lord
Satan took possession of him and took away his faith.
The wolf was estranged from the flock and joined the crucifiers.
He received thirty pieces of silver, the price of the blood
of the precious Lord, the Saviour, who was crucified
to save humankind who had gone astray.

Satan waited at the door of the upper room during the meal.
Our Lord gave His body and His blood to the apostles.
He dipped a piece of bread and gave it to Judas
and the disciples knew that it was he
who would betray the Lord and be estranged from the Church.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The disciples wept over Judas when he left the upper room.
He left by the door. Satan received him and ensnared him.
He parts with the doves sitting around the Eagle
and goes out to plot with the crucifiers and sell his Saviour
for thirty pieces of silver. He buy a rope of perdition
and becomes estranged from the Church.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today on the Mount of Olives our Lord prays
and sadly cries for Adam, His image and likeness
who lost his life following the advice of Satan.
He leaves the disciples overcome with sleep and sadness,
and goes to pray, "Father, if it is possible,
take this cup of suffering from Me.
Not My will, however, but Your will be done!"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading
The wicked come up against Me with calumnies,
Fear falls on Me and the secret forebodings of death.

Zc	11 : 4-17	The two Shepherds.
Ezk	21 : 6-17	The Sword, an oracle of doom.
1 P	4 : 1-10	Changed Lives

Verses before the Reading of Saint Paul
Now I know that God saved His Anointed
and answered Him from His Holy Heaven

Heb	4 : 14-16 5: 1-10	Jesus high priest supreme and all compassionate.

Gospel Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
On account of these they lie in wait for Me.
They set themselves fiercely against Me.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt	26:30-41	Jesus foretells Peter's denial.
Lk	22:31-45	Jesus enters into agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.
Mt	26:42-46	

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

At this time of the night, we praise and adore Christ
who saved us by His passion and His humiliation. *3 times*

Our Father in heaven...

Psalm 43 (42) Defend Me, O God and uphold My cause...

RESPONSE
The vineyard of my Beloved was fertile.
It was renowned among the nations.
But instead of fruits of faith,
its branches bore sour grapes.

The stock of Abraham the Just.
The offshoot of Isaac the Sacrificed.
The branch of Jacob the Righteous.
The grapes of Moses the Lawgiver.

They insulted Him, beat Him, made a mockery of Him,
and condemned Him to death on the cross.
Blessed is He who prayed for His tormentors
and who built His Church on the rock of the pardon of sins.

Today our Saviour declared to His disciples
that they would be in great distress
on account of His passion and death,
and anguish would fill their hearts.

Today Judas the traitor parted
from the company of the disciples.
He went to sell His Master
and he purchased a rope for himself.

The treacherous priests assembled
and took counsel against our Saviour,
to put Him to death iniquitously,
the Lord who bestowed all goodness on them.

Let us offer praise to the Father,
and thanksgiving to the Son who proceeds from Him,
and to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy,
in remembrance of the Passion of our Saviour.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to God the Word who was knit together...
As on Monday, Night Vigil, Third Watch, p. 400

Hymn

On that night Judas took the soldiers and led them to Jesus
to betray Him and to have Him condemned to death.
Jesus advanced and said to them:
"Whom do you seek with swords and lathis?" They said,
"Jesus of Nazareth, son of the Carpenter, who by His parables
and teachings spoke against our leaders.
Halleluia. We want to seize Him."

On that night the Lord was taken to court and judged,
thereby removing the curse against Adam, father of humankind.
Annas presided, Caiaphas judged, the people cried out:
"He deserves death!" The Son of God endured all this
on behalf of the wicked people whom He came to save,
halleluia, by giving them life.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On that night the Sun of Righteousness was imprisoned
in the house of Annas, the high priest, and tied to a pillar.
Gabriel and the mighty Michael were in utter dismay
seeing their Saviour treated with such derision and cruelty,
for He is the Mighty Lord who limits the bounds of the ocean
with sands and forbids them to overflow. He had His hands tied
like an evil man, halleluia, to save Adam who had sinned.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When Caiaphas judged the Son of God,
he sought a pretext on which he could be condemned to death.
False witnesses said that they saw Him break the Law
and that He had healed lepers on the day of the Sabbath.
Because of these the people cried out: "He deserves death!"
Halleluia. Woe to those who stirred them up.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading
My friends and My companions flee from this evil,
and My nearest of kin stay in the distance.

Jr 26 : 7-10 Jeremiah's discourse against the Temple.
Zc 13 : 7-9 The command to kill God's Shepherd.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
Truly dogs have surrounded Me.
A pack of evil-doers encircle Me.

Ep 3 : 1-16 Paul's work for the nations. The love of Christ.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Those who sought Me, seized Me.
They mean evil and speak with perfidy.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 14 : 27-52 Jesus foretells Peter's denial.
Mt 26 : 47-56 Jesus enters into agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.
Jn 18 : 1-13 Jesus is arrested by armed men led by Judas

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations

By that love which made You bear to be flogged for our sake
in the tribunal, do not summon us to judgement
and be gracious to the whole world.
Our Father in heaven... *3 times.*

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who accepts sacrifices and who is the Lord...

As at the Evening Prayer, p. 514

Hymn

Simon Peter, hearing the cock crow, left the courtyard,
crying bitterly about what had happened.
"Yesterday my companions were good and holy men
but today I have joined forces with the crucifiers.
Son of David, be gracious to me and pardon my sin.
In the sea, when I cried out to You, You answered me.
Now, too, be gracious to me, halleluia,
allow me to return again to You."

Tonight our Lord stands in the court,
to tear asunder the sentence pronounced against Adam,
the father of all peoples. Annas threatens, Caiaphas judges,
and the people cry out; "He deserves death!"
The Son of God has endured all for us
whom He came to save, halleluia, by giving us life.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The head of the disciples stood up in the courtyard of Caiaphas
and cried bitterly and then said, "All you, apostles,
intercede for Simon who has denied Christ three times.
Heaven and earth cry for me who sinned so grievously.
If He closes His door, where shall I find refuge?
Halleluia, O Lord, be gracious to me!"

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When Caiaphas was judging the Son of God and searching for a pretext
to condemn Him to death, false witnesses came up and said,
"This man was breaking the law. They saw Him healing lepers
on the Sabbath!" Then the people cried out, "He deserves death!"
Halleluia. And by His death He gives us life.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading
O Lord, judge those who judge Me,
and rise against those who fight against Me.

Mi	4 : 9-13	Distress in Jerusalem to be followed by a renewal.
Jr	26 : 11-15	If you put me to death you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
O Lord, judge those who judge Me,
and rise against those who fight against Me.

1 Co	6 : 1-8	Christians not to have recourse to courts of justice.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
False witnesses accuse Me of things
about which I know nothing.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk	22 : 31-62	Jesus is arrested by Judas and his men. Peter denies
Jn	18 : 14-26	Him thrice. He repents and weeps bitterly.

Hymn *Madrosho of Mar Ephrem the Teacher. On Peter's Denial*

Refrain to be repeated after each stanza.
Glory to You, Christ, Firstborn of the two worlds,
Living One who do not die, King whose Kingdom will never end.

Beloved, as I was reading the Book, I was astounded.
When Christ suffered, Peter wept. He wept first
because His Master had been delivered unto death,
but also because he himself denied Him. He kept on weeping, saying,
"I have lost my priestly charism, because I denied my Lord."

He had proclaimed me blessed, when I had answered Him,
prompted by the Father, "You are the Christ, the Son of God."
I know that it is He who taught me how to pray to the Father.
No one will any more receive me, except His Son.
My sin is unto death!

He called me, and I walked on the waves as on solid ground.
The depths of the abyss stretched out their neck before me, and I
reached out to my Lord. A fish gave me a coin for Caesar's people!
And after all these miracles I have denied Him, and under oath!
I am cut off from life!

He had promised thrones to the Twelve.
But who will He make to sit on the throne I have lost?
Because I have abandoned it, this throne will no more receive me,
for love that is not firm cannot sit upon it. I have lost it for ever!

In my zeal I cut the ear with the sword. That I might be spared a charge
brought against me. He picked it up and put it back in its place.
He saved me in His goodness and I have denied Him. What
can I do now? I have become a miserable stranger in my old days!

My eyes will not stop from shedding tears. I am no more youthful,
and I have denied Him who created me. My old days are full of shame
I used to preach to the youth, but I have had a grievous fall.
I have become an object of contempt even for children!

If He were to open His door to receive my repentance,
I would fall on my face on the ground before Him. He might then,
perhaps, suffer me to call sinners saying, "Come, enter with repentance.
He will not close His door upon you, as He did not close it upon me."

With hands to my mouth I will cry out and say throughout the earth.
"Come, hasten to knock at the door of the Creator and He will open
to you. He suffered hunger and thirst that He might give life to sinners.
Enter therefore that you may be purified."

You who are crushed under the load of your sins, do not despair.
Your Lord ascended the Cross, He tasted gall and drunk vinegar.
A spear pierced His side that He might heal your wounds. Turn to Him,
speak to Him in the secret of the heart and He will blot out your sins.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your passion our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

Beloved, let us wrap ourselves in mourning and suffering,
on this day when the Son of God has been humiliated for us.
He, the innocent, endured reviling and terrible shame from the impious.

He descended from heaven and became man, the Life-giving Lamb
of the Godhead, to become sacrifice for the sake of His flock.
The impious people did not recognize Him as the Lamb of the Godhead.

He comes suddenly to Golgotha with great power to gather His flock,
the generation that killed Him, thirsty flock to be gathered by His blood,
for without blood the thirst of the flock cannot be quenched.

How good, our Lord, that You were pleased to lower Yourself
for Adam, whom You fashioned out of the dust and also
banished from You, and through the suffering of this pain,
long ago, led him to rejoice with You in Your Kingdom.

You are adorable with Your Father and the Holy Spirit,
as You endured the Cross and the Passion,
from the impious and also from Your disciples.
One delivered You to death and the other denied You,
while Your people treated You treacherously. Glory to Your Name.

Supplication Song Lord be gracious to us and help us
Christ who came to the Passion, to Death and the Cross
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Look with compassion on Your house and see how desolate it is,
no kingship, no priesthood, no prophecy.

This night the shepherd was struck for the sake of His flock
and all the lambs who followed Him were scattered.
This night Matthew was not there, Thomas took to flight,
James went into hiding, Peter denied Him and the Son remained silent.

This night the Sun withdrew into darkness and He remained
patient under the interrogations of the judges.
It was night when the Great Sun was taken prisoner,
and His frightened twelve rays took to flight.

This night the disciples fled from their Master
who remained alone and endured suffering for the sake of many.
This night let every one make vigil to pray,
for the Saviour suffered for all, to set them free.

Glory to You, our Lord, whose great love made You endure
an ignominious passion and all evil from the impious. In Your
Passion our Lord, the Church whom You betrothed suffers with You
On the day of the Resurrection rejoice her children in Your Kingdom.

MEDITATION

FOURTH WATCH

Praise

O Christ, by enduring Your judgement
You took away the sting of judgement for us.
Do not summon us to judgement
and do not call to mind our debts. 3 *times*

Our Father in heaven...

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to Him who in His incomparable wisdom...
As on Tuesday, Night Vigil, Third Watch, p. 440

Hymn
Why did you betray the Lord of the Creation,
treacherous friend and deceitful disciple?
How dared you use the kiss of peace
to betray the Fountain of Life to Death?

The rulers led the Judge of judges to Pilate
to have Him judged by him.
The Creator is silent, His head low before His subject
who asks Him what evil He has done.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On Friday a mob demonstrates in front of Pilate
crying out: "Crucify Him. Crucify Jesus of Nazareth.
Remove this plague from us.
Release Barabbas to us."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Vicious people cry out and say to Pilate,
"This man leads our people astray. Condemn Him. Crucify Him.
By His own words He deserves death, for He has
deliberately broken the Sabbath Law given to us by Moses."

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
My friends and My companions see My misery
and My nearest kin remain at a distance.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 26:57-75 Jesus before the Council.
Peter's denial and deep repentance.

CONCLUSION OF THE NIGHT VIGIL

Verses for the Passion
Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us,
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them remember Your prayer on the Cross,
"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

On that night all watch, the disciples, the crucifiers,
and our Saviour, too, but how differently!
The people to kill, the disciples to flee, the Son of God prays
in the midst of His agony, "Father, Your will be done"!

Judas betrays. Peter denies.
The priests and the people insult the Son.
They hit Him on the head and spit in His face.
Glory to You for Your graciousness,
You who endured without resistance.

On this night the servant girl intervened
and said to the head of the Twelve,
"You also are one of the disciples."
But he denied it with an oath, saying,
"I do not know this man."

Your love is utterly selfless,
and You abase Yourself that we may have life.
You want us to do likewise and to cling to You.
You prompt us by Your Spirit to work with You,
with true spiritual beauty.

In Your graciousness You allowed Yourself
to be molested and ill-treated for our sake.
We beseech You, remember us and heal our wounds.
Spare us from being condemned by You, O Lord,
You who took our place before the tribunal.

Glory to the Hidden Father.
Adoration to the Son who suffered for us.
Thanksgiving to the Life-giving Spirit.
Three names, three persons, one being
which cannot be comprehended.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings,
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

How sublime Your condescension with humility and compassion!
For the sake of guilty Adam You ascended the Cross
and surrendered Your spirit while the wicked
seized You and accused You falsely.

Our Lord, You have lowered Your Greatness,
You have surrendered Your spirit for our sake
and You endured sufferings and the Cross
for guilty Adam. Glory for Your graciousness
and Your compassion, and thanksgiving for Your Divinity.

You have fulfilled the oracles of the prophets
and the pronouncements of the seers.
You endured the passion and humiliation.
You suffered the shame of the Cross
and You reconciled the world with Your Father
by offering Yourself in sacrifice.

Glory to You and to Him who sent You,
who sent You for our salvation.
Glory to You and praise to You.
Glory to You, thousands and thousands of times,
to the Father who sent You, and to the Holy Spirit.
And on us Your graciousness at all times.

Concluding Praise

Christ who were beaten in the tribunal by a servant,
have compassion on us on the day of Your judgement
and be gracious to all. 3 *times*

Glory to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem be opened
that our prayers may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

MEDITATION

Morning Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

At this time of morning we confess You and we adore You,
Christ who saved us by Your passion and Your humiliation. *3 times*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven...

Opening Prayer,

Jesus God, Judge of judges and Liberator of prisoners,
it seemed good to You to be taken to prison and to the tribunal,
and You received spittle from the unclean
and a slap from the impudent,
do not count us among the evil-doers
and do not condemn us with the impious,
but acknowledge us as we acknowledge You, and rejoice us
with the vision of Your face on the Great Day of Your Resurrection,
that we may thank You and adore You and praise You,
with Your Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 Be gracious to us, O God... *As on Monday*, p. 405

RESPONSE

You who for our salvation
were taken to the tribunal as a guilty man,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who received a slap from a servant
and liberated the servants enslaved by sin,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who were struck on the head with a reed
and who tore up the register of our sins,
be gracious to all, O God.

You towards whom kings and judges
acted treacherously to put You to death,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who are the Judge of all, and innocent,
were condemned by the impious,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who are Judge essentially,
allowed Yourself to be condemned by the impious,
be gracious to all, O God.

Psalm 63 O God, You are My God... *As on Monday*, p. 407

RESPONSE

Christ God, who in Your love received a blow in the tribunal,
and who deliver us from slavery,
we have come before You, be gracious to all.

Christ God, who were hung on the Cross for our salvation,
and by Your death give life to all,
we have come before You, be gracious to all.

Christ God, who of Your own will endured the Passion and the Cross
and saved Adam and his children,
we have come before You, be gracious to all.

Christ God, who by the Passion which You suffered in the flesh
vivified our nature by sufferings, give the strength to overcome them.
we have come before You, be gracious to all.

Christ God, who alone are free from sin and because You willed,
were pronounced guilty to set us free, we the guilty ones,
we have come before You, be gracious to all.

Christ who for our salvation bore the Passion and the Cross
and who give us like in Your own person,
we have come before You, be gracious to all.

Psalm 35 (34) O Lord, plead my cause against my foes...

RESPONSE
Today the Judge of all judges stands in the tribunal, head low,
and bears reviling and mockery from the impious for our sake,
to save us from deceit and untruth.

Today the people stir up a sedition before Pilate, "Judge,
crucify Him. Crucify Him." The impious favour Barabbas
and condemn the Son of God to die on the Cross.

Today the Lord of Eden receives filthy spittle in the face,
He who opens Paradise to Adam, and He bears blows from the servants
to deliver all from the servitude of sin.

Today the love of the disciples has become cold
and they run in search of a place of refuge while the Master of Truth
stands alone with the crucifiers enduring pain and suffering.

Today the people cry, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him, Pilate,
this man who deceives our people and breaks the Sabbath,
and the Law which we have received from Moses."

Psalm 69 (68) : 1 - 22 Save me, O God, for the waters have risen...
30 - 37

RESPONSE
Listen now, all you nations, can we think of anybody more impudent
than those who hung on the Cross of shame the Lord of the Creation?
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

Listen, you all who dwell on earth, the impure chose the executioner
and crucified impudently the Lord of the Creation.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

Sun and moon in the firmament are in distress and the Creation also.
It is fitting for the Creation to be in darkness with the Creator.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

They offered Him gall mixed with vinegar when He was thirsty.
He tasted and cried out, "Now all that has been written is fulfilled."
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

The dead suddenly came back to life and the saints went to meet Him
and announced to many, "He is the Lord, in truth."
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

The Holy Spirit left and went forth from the place now profaned.
In witness of this, the veil through which no one could pass
was rent in two. Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

Psalm 54 (53) O God, save me by Your Name...

RESPONSE
Blessed is Christ who by His passion abolished the power of Death.
By putting off the body He confused the forces of evil
and put them to shame. Grant us, Lord, that by Your Passion
we may suffer with You and share Your glory.

Our Saviour, who suffered in the flesh for the sake of Your Church
which You saved from deceit and untruth,
remove from her shameful divisions and rivalries,
and make peace reign among her children to the end.

Today the whole Creation is in great distress
when our Saviour stands in the tribunal like a guilty man,
and receives the sentence of death,
He who gives us and all life for ever.

On the day of the crucifixion of our Lord on the summit of Golgotha
darkness fell suddenly on the earth, its foundations quaked,
and those who had slept were rejected and the whole Creation
was wrapped in mourning and in distress.

Psalm 22 (21) My God, My God, who have You forsaken Me...

RESPONSE

Today the people of Caiaphas cry out, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him,"
to whom the Fiery Ones sing, "Holy, Holy."

Today an incensed mob cries out, "Away with Him. Away with Him,"
and the Winged Creatures, "Blessed are You in Your place."

Today the people clamour before Pilate to put Jesus to death,
"Free Barabbas, and nail this one on the summit of a cross.

Today on the summit of a cross on Golgotha, they raised
and crucified the Mighty One who carries the Creation by His power.

Today on the cross, on the summit of a tree, they pierce
with nails the right hand that fashioned Adam from the dust.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Great One and Mighty One, who offered Himself in sacrifice on the Cross, and by the blood of pardon poured forth on the Cross erased the account of the sins of the human family. To the simple One who was stretched out and by the outstretching of His hands holds together the utmost bounds of the habitable earth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of morning...

Praise to You and thanksgiving to You, Wise Creator. In the beginning, by six words in six days You brought into being the world and all that it contains, and in Your wisdom You set it in order. But in one day, through Your Passion, You fulfilled all the mysteries and You renewed Your Creation. Freeborn who on Friday showed Yourself obedient unto death in order to put an end to the sin committed by Adam, our first father, You are the Uniquely-Beloved Son who extended His hands on the Cross and healed Adam, who had stretched his hand to reach out to the fruit with evil desire. When the wrongdoers saw You, they recognized You as the Only One who is the Word of God. They were eager to shed Your blood, and they conspired Your death. They raised their fists at You. They seized You with a frenzy and took You to the tribunal, condemned You to the Cross and led You to Golgotha. They erected Your Cross between the earth and the heaven, put a crown of thorns on Your glorious head, spat in Your face, and as a mockery, clothed You in a purple robe. They raised You up, gave You vinegar to drink and made You taste gall. And You cried with a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Then the earth quaked, the mountains shook and the sun was darkened. The veil of the temple was torn in two, the saints were terror-stricken, and the Fiery Ones shuddered, the earth stopped moving, the Winged Creatures were horrified. The Fiery Ones were filled with shame when they saw their Lord hanging on the Cross. The sun hid its rays, because it could not look at the nakedness of its Creator, for it was the Eternal Light nailed on the tree of the Cross. The disciples fled, the friends dispersed. Awaken then, arise son of Barachus, for now is your prophecy fulfilled, "The Shepherd has been struck and His lambs, are scattered." Where are you brave men? Michael, what happened to your zeal? Where is your sword which annihilated thousands of Assyrian warriors? Fear not, disciples. Be strong and confident and come together, for on Sunday your Lord resurrects, as prophecy has proclaimed about Him. Where are you going, Simon? Whereto do you hasten, John? Thomas, whither are you departing? Whose hand are you holding, Philip? Whereto do you set out, James? Matthew and Bartholomew and Lebbaeus, do not be out of heart. Do not be so greatly alarmed, apostles, that you scatter abroad. If you are dispersed

today, on Sunday you will be together again with joy. Today sorrow overtakes you, but on Sunday it will be gladness and exultation... because ofthe Resurrection of your Master.

Therefore, we beg You, Lord, on this day of Your Life-giving Passion, let it not be that we remain subject to passions, but free us from all passions that lead to sin. And set us right, that with Your divine strength we may stand against all the fiery darts of the Evil One, by Your goodness and that of Your Father and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

In the morning the Judge who judges the Creation stands in the court,
and the Lord of the Wakeful Ones is interrogated by a servant.
Glory to Him who endured so much for the sake of Adam,
to restore him to his inheritance.

In the morning, O judges, He judges you.
Glory to Your Name, who magnify the innocent.
In the morning You carry the Cross and go forth to be crucified.
Blessed is Your glory from Your place,
You who loved so much Adam and his children.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

In the morning the Creator is condemned to death by Pilate,
and impious people cry out, "Crucify Him.
Crucify Jesus called the Nazarene.
Away with Him! And release Barabbas."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In the morning He takes the Cross on His shoulder and He leaves them
to their madness. And the Holy Spirit leaves the temple and says,
"Alas for you, Jerusalem! Your gates will be deserted.
and your feasts will be taken away."

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Praise to You, Mighty One, who experienced fear
to give courage to all. Thanksgiving to You, O God, who prayed

that the prayers of sinners may be accepted.
Out of love for Your human nature, accept now, our Lord,
the prayers and supplications and the perfume of this incense
which we offer to You at this time of morning.

May Your prayer for us give wings to our prayers
that they may come before the throne of Your Majesty for our salvation,
and by them, grant us the full pardon of all our offences
and a generous response to all our requests
for You are our help and our refuge.
And we will offer praise and thanksgiving
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn

On the fourteenth of Nisan - April - the impious condemn
the Judge of judges and raise Him after nailing Him on the Cross.
They bend their knees before Him in mockery, to revile Him.
They make Him taste gall on a reed.
Blessed is He who liberates the Creation by His blood.

On this day of the Passion of our Saviour,
let us offer praise to Him who remains hidden to the Watchers
but who came to us in His graciousness.
They opened His side on the summit of the Cross
and there flowed from it blood and water, the fountain of forgiveness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Fashioner of Adam sets out to His death carrying the Cross
on His shoulder, and the daughters of Jerusalem are weeping and sighing.
His disciples leave Him and run away, fulfilling the prophecy,
"You have separated Me from My friends and My companions".

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Invisible Being seen in the Creation, from the heart of the Father,
fire and spirit by nature, is bound and raised on the top of a tree.
The hand which spread out the heaven is nailed on a cross
the hand by which the gate of Paradise is re-opened.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading
They open their mouths against Me,
like roaring lions ready to devour.

Nu	19 : 1-10	The ashes of the red heifer.
Hab	1 : 1-11	The prophet's grievance and the Lord's answer.
Is	50 : 4-9	The obedience of the Servant of the Lord.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
You placed on His head a crown of glory.
God has shown a crown of glory in Sion.

Heb	9 : 11-14	Christ has entered the sanctuary once and for all... who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice through the Holy Spirit.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The snares of Sheol are all around Me.
The snares of death are before Me.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt	27 : 1-14	In the morning Jesus is led to Pilate to be tried.
Jn	18 : 28-40	Barabbas.
Lk	23 : 19-25	The Death of Judas.

Verses for the Passion

Blessed is Your Passion, our Lord, which You endured for us.
Blessed is Your humiliation for our sake.

When You shall judge those who condemned You,
and us with them, remember Your prayer on the Cross,
Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing.

The whole night the priests sat in judgement and put Jesus on trial
and in the morning they led Him out and went to Pilate
to hear his verdict. They raised their voices in tumult
and all the people clamoured for the death of Jesus.

The man of dust is seated on his throne
and the Lord of the seas stands before him for interrogation.
Give thanks to the Fire who restrained His flames - He who holds
the worlds - that the dust be not burnt up by His strength.

They clamour and cry, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him,
who calls Himself the Son of God." In their blindness
they did not perceive that He was the Son of the Father,
who had come to seek the fruits of recognition.

Blessed River of the words of the Spirit
that gives to drink and satisfies even the impure.
But they thirst for blood, and He is hung on Golgotha,
the Son who sought from the labourers the fruits of recognition.

All spiritual and bodily senses awake to sing praise
to Him who by His sacrifice put an end to all sacrifices,
and redeemed His Church through His blood of forgiveness.
Praise to Him and to His Hidden Father and to His Life-giving Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Our Lord, be gracious to all,
by the great sufferings You endured for the race of Adam.

And let us share in Your sufferings,
that we may have part in the blessings of Your Kingdom.

Glory to You, Christ-Morning,
who have redeemed us for Your morning.
In the morning came to an end,
the judgement conducted by the priests of iniquity.
In the morning, seething with jealousy, they bound You.
They held You and delivered You to the judge,
clamouring all the time against You,
"This One deserves death,"
You who are the Fountain of Life
for all those who believe in You.

In the morning he saw You condemned,
Judas the killer, and he repented,
and returned the money which he had taken,
witnessing by this to the innocent blood,
the money which he loved, he did not keep
and he earned for himself only the hanging.

In the morning You clothed Adam
in glory, in splendour and in beauty,
and in the morning blind people
clothed You in a garment of scorn.
In the morning came out of Egypt
these people who hate their Liberator.
In the morning they load the Cross
on His shoulder to take Him to His death.

In the morning the holy of holies wept
because on it fell the price of Your blood.
It knew that its time had come
to be relieved from its service.
It wept for those who ensured its service
and whose service was now coming to an end.
Sacrifices came now to an end.
They were now abolished and for ever.
And to Pilate who washed his hands,
a people incensed against Jesus
clamoured, "His blood be on us and on our children
for the generations to come."

In the morning You clothed heaven
in comely luminous garments,
and in the morning impious people
clothed You in garments of scorn.
In the morning the Winged Creatures cry out,
"Blessed be Your glory in Your place."
And in the morning they rise against You
the adulterous generation, in the tribunal,
"Away with Him. Away with Him from this earth!

Do away with Him from among the living!"
Do away with Him from among the living!"
You who are hallowed, our Lord,
by the Wakeful Ones of fire and spirit.

In the morning Mary wept
bitterly over her Beloved.
The judgement is over,
and as He comes out, the Cross is waiting for Him.
In the morning they moan like doves
the virgins of the house of Israel,
when they see the High Priest Supreme
carrying a cross on which they will fasten Him.

In the morning the mothers lament
over the babies in their wombs
for they are guilty of the innocent blood
which the priests called on them all, in the tribunal.

It is the will of Your Father
that by Your death peace may come.
And it is also Your will
that reconciliation come through Your crucifixion.
But why, our Lord, have You made supplication
that the cup of death be removed from You?

In the form of Adam which You assumed
You made supplication to the Father for Adam
that be removed from him and from his children
the cup of the second death,
mixed for him by the Evil One, from the day he sinned,
and to be given to drink to his children.

Glory to You, Christ-Morning,
from all that Your Majesty has created.
Glory to You, on all mornings,
for You are the Morning that gladdens all.
Glory to You from all beauties,

You are He who clothes with beauty
all plants and flowers.
Glory to You who are the staff
and the support of all those who need support.

Glory to You, Lord of graciousness.
Glory to You, Lord of all, a thousand times.
Glory to You, myriads and myriads of times.
Glory to You, Judge of judges who stood in the tribunal.
Glory to You, our Lord, from Your Church.
And praise to You from her children.
Glory to You, and to the Father who sent You.
And to the Holy Spirit exaltation.

Concluding Praise

At this time of morning we confess You and we adore You...
As at the beginning of this Service, p. 534

Service of the Third Hour

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

Christ who were beaten by a servant in the tribunal,
be compassionate to us on the day of Your judgement,
and be gracious to all. *3 times*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven....

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 51 (50) Be gracious to us, O God... *As on* p. 405

RESPONSE

They rose in uproar against the Lord,
and turned frantically against Him.
And they led Him away to nail Him on the Cross.

O judge, let Him be crucified. Crucify Him,
cried the people against Christ,
in return for being led out of Egypt.

God stands in the court of judgement,
and is reviled by the impious.
And by His death He gives life to the Creation.

The impudent took Christ and went forth
raving frantically against Him,
as they had condemned Him to die on the Cross.

Glory to You, O God, for Your graciousness,
who lowered Yourself for our sake,
and became man of Your own will.

The impious seized Him,
and pierced His hands and His feet with nails,
He who fashioned our father Adam.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Noble One who was reviled, and imparted nobility to us, the Glorious One who was insulted, and taught us gentleness, to the Exalted One who lowered Himself to us, and raised us from our downcast state, to the Judge who suffered to be condemned, and saved us from

condemnation, to the Liberator who was proclaimed guilty, and set us free from our guilt, to the Freeborn who was struck with a blow by His servant, and makes us children freedom from sin, who was beaten on the head, and made to pass away from us the hidden humiliations of the Enemy. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the Third Hour...

Glory to You, God, the Word, who when You lowered Yourself, remained in heaven, and when You made Yourself nothing retained Your greatness, and when You became flesh You did not cease to be God. Thanksgiving to You who were seized and did not resist, who were reviled and did not complain, who were beaten and did not retaliate, who were insulted and did not murmur, who were led as a sheep to the slaughter and remained silent. They stripped You naked and You were not disturbed. They clothed You in a garment of derision and You did not disallow it. They nailed You on the Cross and You remained calm. They inflicted torture on You and You remained even-minded. They crowned You with thorns and You did not withdraw Your head. They offered You gall and vinegar and You were not disquieted. Glory to You who bore with those who made You suffer and who prayed for them Your Father, to forgive them. The East saw You and was in distress, the West looked at You intently and was shaken, and the other quarters of the earth shuddered like dry leaves in a storm. The sun saw You and became dark and the moon in the heaven was dismayed and the stars in the firmament fell down. The veil of the temple was rent in two. The mountains and the high places quaked. Night fell at midday. In Sheol Death laboured to weariness and the bodies of the dead resurrected. Sin was brought to naught and the human race was redeemed.

Therefore, God, the Word, who condescended to such an abasement, for our salvation, out of love, we beseech You, by this fragrant incense, exalt Your Name over us. Let us share in Your sufferings that we may have part in the glory of Your Kingdom. Bestow on us the knowledge of the height and depth, length and breadth of Your love, and strengthen us that we may be crucified to the world and its glory, and enable us to draw strength from Your glorious crucifixion. Make us worthy to carry You everyday in our hearts, and protect us by Your life-

giving sign, the sign of strength given to those who revere You. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, in purity and holiness, to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

On Friday Pilate was on his seat to judge Christ, the King,
and he condemned Him to death. The impious people led Him away
and spat on His face and beat Him on the head.
Your Creator endured all these afflictions for you, human being,
to make you know how much He loves you, halleluia,
that you may love Him with all your heart.

On Friday, at the third hour, the Word of the Father become flesh,
went forth from Jerusalem, He who with a simple gesture
carries the worlds, and they put on His shoulder the Cross
on which were nailed the sins of all generations.
And He went and died, a sacrifice on Golgotha,
and by His sacrifice made atonement for all the sins of humankind,
from Adam and henceforth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On Friday they divided the garments of the Son of God,
and they made a crown of thorns and put it on His head,
and clothed Him in a robe of scarlet, and in mockery
they bent their knees and bowed to Him saying,
"Hail, King of the Jews!" And with all these He remained
quiet and silent, His heart humbled and at rest halleluia,
that we may learn from Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Church saw on the summit of the tree of the Cross
the Sun of Righteousness who enlightens the world.
She saw the wounds and felt much pain,
the nails in the hands and the spear in His side.
And she came near Him and said to Him,
"Here I am with my children to adore You who died for us,
halleluia, and who redeemed us by Your blood."

Second Hymn

Bands and bands of people set out from Jerusalem to Golgotha
to see the crucified God hanging from the top of the Cross.
The wicked ones who crucified Him were scattered all over the earth.
Halleluia, halleluia,
He laid waste His vineyard and founded the Church.

Listen, all you peoples, and give ear, all inhabitants of the earth,
to what Jerusalem has done. She nailed Him on the cross and opened
His side with a spear and there flowed from it blood and water,
halleluia, halleluia,
for the pardon of the whole world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

When they lifted Him up on the cross heaven and earth trembled
the whole creation shuddered, the sun withdrew its rays,
the veil was rent and the rocks hearing His voice split apart,
halleluia, halleluia,
all creatures proclaiming that He was their Maker and their Lord.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The judge who judges the Son asks water and washes his hands saying,
"I am innocent of the blood of this just man." And with one voice
the people cry out, "His blood be on us and on our children."
Halleluia, halleluia.
Praise to Him who bore with them.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading

They assembled for My passion and bloated over Me.
In their boastings and their mockeries they gnashed their teeth at Me.

Jb	16:6-21	Job's elegy: "If I speak my pain is not lessened..."
Jb	30:1-13	And now they deride Me, men younger than Me...
Is	59:1-9	It is our wrongdoing that separates us from God

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul

Strong bulls surround Me.
Wild bulls of Bashan encircle Me.

Heb 13:10-16 Jesus suffered to consecrate the people by His blood.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Dogs have surrounded Me.
A pack of evil-doers encircle Me.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk	15:25a	The Third Hour.
Lk	22:66b-71	Jesus tried by Pilate is condemned to death
	23:1-16	under pressure of the people.
Jn	19:7-12	He sets out for Golgotha carrying His Cross.

MEDITATION

Service of the Sixth Hour

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

Christ who were interrogated in the tribunal by Your servant,
be compassionate to us on the day of Your judgement,
and be gracious to all. *3 times*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven....

Psalm 55 *As here below.*[3]
Give ear, O God, to My prayer,
do not turn away from My pleading.
Give heed to Me and answer Me,
turn to My calling and hear Me.

I shudder at the voice of the foe,
at the stares of the wicked.
For they heap invectives upon Me
and slander Me to My face.
My heart faints within Me,
as the terror of Death assails Me.
Fear and terror assault Me,
and shudders overcome Me.

Had I but wings like a dove,
to fly away and be at rest,
far away would be My flight,
in the wilderness would I settle!

I would hasten to find a shelter,
out of the raging wind and tempest...
I see only violence and strife in the city.
Day and night they make their rounds on its walls,
full of malice and mischief,
pernicious deeds, oppression and fraud!

It was not a rival
who heaped on Me the insults that I bear.
It was not My enemy who defamed Me
that I should hide from Him,
but a man of my company,
my own companion and intimate friend.
We used to make sweet counsel together in God's house.
We used to mingle among the throngs...

But I called to God
and the Lord saved Me.
Evening, at dawn and at noon,

I entreated and I moaned,
and the Ransomer heard My voice
and made payment for My life.

He drew near to Me
when so many were against Me.
The Lord heard Me and answered,
and humbled them, He who is from before the worlds.

As for them there is no conversion,
they do not fear God.
Each one stretches out his hands
against his neighbour,
and breaks his covenant
Smoother than butter are his words,
but there is war in his heart.

Cast your cares upon the Lord Most High
Your Provider will support you,
never will He allow the just man to stumble...

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
You who endured the Passion and the Cross
and the crown of thorns on Your head,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who took the Cross on Your shoulder
and with it went forth from Jerusalem,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who mounted the Cross of Your own will
to give life to Adam and his children,
be gracious to all, O God.

You whom the sun saw on the Cross
and it covered its light with darkness,
be gracious to all, O God.

Glory to You, who humbled Yourself
and by Your Cross exalt our race.
be gracious to all, O God.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise... to the Great Liberator who of His own will was led like a lamb to the slaughter and like a sheep before the shearer remained silent before Pilate and did not open His mouth, as He willed. To the Judge of judges who was condemned in an iniquitous trial by evil-doers, and in His goodness sets us free from the guilt of sin. To Him who is exalted in His glory and who did not turn away His face from the shame when He was mocked and insulted, but in His graciousness liberates us from shame. To the Glorious One who in His magnificence received filthy spittle on His face and bestowed on Adam who had broken the commandment an open face and made him return to his inheritance. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this hour of midday...

God the Word who are born divinely from the heart of the Father before time, and in the present time appeared in human form from the Holy Virgin, following Your whole Economy for our sake You willingly came to humiliation and to the emptying of Yourself. You fulfilled in Your own person the oracles of the prophets and the parables of the seers and, today, You before whose fervour of energy the angels and the archangels shudder magnifying Your glory, are taken hold of by creatures of dust and shamefully treated by a servant. You who receive the hallowings of the holy Fiery Ones are spat upon on Your face. You before whom the praise of the glorious heavenly beings falls short, are flogged with lashes. You who stretch out the heaven like a curtain and spread forth the earth above the water are put in chains in the tribunal. Today You who give the word to all beings endowed with speech, hold Your peace before the judge. You remain in silence. You do not speak. In highest heaven the Winged Creatures bless You and here below wicked men hurl abuse at You. In highest heaven the Fiery Ones hallow You and here below insolent earthly ones revile You. In highest heaven You are arrayed in light and here below the earthly ones put on You a

robe of derision. In highest heaven You move on a chariot of fire and here below the earthly ones nail You on the wood of the Cross. In highest heaven You are magnified and praised and here below the earthly ones count You among criminals. In highest heaven You are King and King of Kings and You are given the crown of the ruler and here below the earthly ones put on Your head a crown of thorns. When the heavens opened the prophet saw You in glory with creatures of fire, and wheels endowed with the spirit of the Living Creatures, and here below You are hanging on a cross between two thieves. In highest heaven You sit in glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit on Your glorious throne and here on earth You are treated with abuse and laughed at to scorn. In highest heaven You give a spear to the Winged Creature to guard the tree of life and here below they open Your side with a spear. In highest heaven with a mere gesture You make the bitter water of Marah to become sweet and here below they hold out to You vinegar and gall. In highest heaven You breathe into Adam the breath of life and here below You descend into Sheol like a dead person and You lie among the dead.

Therefore we beseech You, by the love for Your human nature and we entreat You, God who endured all these for our sake, by this fragrant incense which we offer in our weakness, make us worthy to share in Your passion, to become like You in Your abasement, to be vivified by Your death, to rejoice for Your rising, and with those whom You loved, to exult on account of Your Resurrection, to praise You in Your Kingdom and with all those who did Your will to take our delight at Your bridal feast, by Your goodness and the good pleasure of Your Father and the operation of Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Holy One is in the hands of the impure
and the Creation is wrapped in grief.
The heavenly powers are filled with awe and they shudder,
seeing the Son standing, head low, before Pilate.
The sun covers its rays, seeing its Lord reviled.
The earth quakes and the foundation of the abyss rocks.
He who holds the Creation in His hands, an earthly creature
of nothing sits in judgement of Him, the Innocent One.

The faith of the thief is truly great and firm,
as he asks forgiveness to His Lord hanging on the cross.
While the nails are in His hands and in His feet he says,
"Forgive me my evil-doing."
Simon Peter denies Him saying with an oath
"I do not know this man."
John the Virgin and the disciples flee and are scattered,
but the criminal cries out, "Remember me, my Lord,
when You come into Your Kingdom."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On Friday impious people crucify
the Lord of the seas and of the abyss.
With a reed they strike the Master-builder that fashioned Adam.
They cast lots for His garment
and pierce His hands and feet with nails.
They thrust a spear into His side
and there flows from it blood and water.
They inflict all tortures on Him,
all insults, and they give Him gall.
He carried the cross for our sake
and He said, "What is written about Me is fulfilled."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When the wicked ones had condemned Him, the Judge of judges, they
fastened Him and erected the cross on which He was hanging,
who hung the world by a mere gesture.
The Sun covered its face, not to see the nakedness of its Creator.
The rocks split apart and the tombs burst open
and the dead rose who had slept,
and the earth quaked as if it were to rebuke the impious people,
for He whom they crucified on the tree is the Lord of all creatures.

Another Hymn

Lord, our Lord, when the Watchers saw You hanging on the Cross,
their powers in their orders took to their ranks behind each other,
to send down fire on the wicked ones who had crucified You.
But when they heard Your prayer which You made to the Father
their zeal abated and they praised Your abasement.

Lord, our Lord, the heavenly ones and the earthly ones
were astounded when they saw You hanging on the Cross,
and Your face on which the Winged Creatures cannot look
covered with filthy spittle, and You Yourself offering prayer
for them to Your Father to forgive them, O Lover of Humankind.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, our Lord, on Friday
the people agitated before Pilate, clamouring,
"This man leads our people astray.
He says that He is the king and the Son of God.
Condemn Him therefore. He deserves death on the cross
for He breaks the Sabbath committed to us by Moses."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Lord, our Lord, the sun was darkened and the earth quaked
and the mountains and the whole Creation shook
when the wicked people crucified You and offered You gall and vinegar
and opened Your side, and there flowed from it blood and water,
and the Church opened her hands and received it.

Verses before the first reading
My ordeal is near and there is none to help
Many bulls surround Me.

Ex	10:21-23	"There was deep darkness over the whole land."
Am	8:9-14	"That day I will make the sun go down at noon."
Jer	4:19-28	"My anguish, My anguish, I writhe in pain."

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
All those who see Me revile Me.
They thrust out their lips in mockery
and they wag their heads.

Ph	2:3-11	He became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They pierced My hands and My feet.
And all My bones wailed.

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
They divided My garments among themselves
and they cast lots over My tunic.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

At the reading of the Gospel "And they led Him out to crucify Him" (Mt 27:31), the naked cross is taken in procession outside, around the church, the priest carrying it on his right shoulder, half wrapped in a white cloth, the congregation singing appropriate songs, as:

God mighty for evermore, is led out of the City
carrying the wooden cross on His shoulder.
Women broken with sorrow follow Him and weep for Him,
while all His friends remain at a distance.
With a trembling voice Mary says,
"Where are You going, my Beloved?
Where are they taking You and what will happen?
Why did You allow Yourself to be seized by lawless people?
Blessed are You who suffered for us,
enduring shame and disgrace."

On their return to the church the cross is placed on the Golgotha or stand, also stripped off and bare, but with a candle on either side, and the reading of the Gospel is resumed.

Jn	19:13-15	Pilate brought Jesus out and sat at the judgement seat.
Mt	27:26-32	Pilate had Jesus flogged and handed Him over to be crucified.
Lk	23:26-34	They led Him away...and there followed Him a great multitude of the people.
Jn	19:19-27	When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took His garments.
Mt	27:39-43	Those who passed by derided Him.
Lk	23:39-44	Jesus said to him, "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

MEDITATION

THE GREAT FRIDAY OF THE CRUCIFIXION

Service of the Ninth Hour

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise

Christ who died on the Cross,
in Your graciousness, remember us like the thief,
When You come into Your Kingdom. *3 times*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
that our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven....

Psalm 58 *As here below*
O counselors, leaders, may you pronounce just verdicts
And govern men with equity.

But no, you act with a heart of malice,
With whimsical fancy you shake your hands.

The wicked are loathsome from the womb,
Liars are wayward from birth.
Their venom is like the poison of the serpent,
Like that of a deaf adder that stops its ear,
Which does not hear the voice of charmers
Or the cunning weaver of spells…

May they ebb like water that flows swiftly
…and pass away like one ravaged by consumption,
Like a woman's stillbirth may they never see the sun…

The just man will rejoice when he beholds his victory…
And men will say: "Surely the just man has a reward.
Surely there us a God who governs on the earth".

Glory be to the Father…. From age to age…

RESPONSE
He who was crucified on the tree at Jerusalem.
made the salvation of the world by His crucifixion

He cried out at Jerusalem on the cross,
And the Creation trembled at the life-giving cry.

He was struck on the head with a reed
And He abolished the power of Death and took it away.

He drank vinegar and tasted gall,
and make to pass away the harshness of suffering.

He cried out on the Cross, "Eli, Eli",
and by putting off the body He put the demons to shame.

By the cross of shame He draws people to Himself
and brings faith in Him to our race.

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer in Him to the Lord…Compassionate Lord, we praise…

Praise… to the Living One and Giver of life, who was knit together with Death, in the flesh, as He willed, and by His command made the sun become dark that the impious should not see His nakedness, and the rocks split apart at the sound of His voice, and the tombs burst open as the manifestation of His strength, and He raised the dead by His death…To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the Ninth Hour…

O Crucified One, Ocean of Wonders that showed marvels which cannot be comprehened, Strength which wrapped the sun in darkness on the day of

Your Passion, and took a loincloth as a garment according to the word of prophecy! O Maker who stretched out the heavens like a curtain and spread forth the earth upon the water and on the Cross were treated insolently! O Mighty One, when You trod on Golgotha, the foundations of the earth quaked! O Creator in truth and right who cried out on the Cross and You stirred the heaven by Your pure blood that flowed on the earth and You made to reel the habitable earth to its utmost bounds! O Heavenly Bridegroom who stunned nature when You rose on the Cross and showed to the Church Your bride that You were truly God! O Great Lamp which was put on the lamp-stand of the Cross and sent its light on the sun of the Creation and it became dark! O Holy Effulgence at whose sign the rays of the moon vibrate and You were hung on the Cross and sent Your rays below to the deepest recesses, the lowest regions of Sheol. Lord of the Creation who were crucified, the Creation was terrified and worshipped You. Creator, at the time of whose Passion the heights and the depths gave witness that You are God and by the stupendous things that happened You were proclaimed their Maker, the sun which was obscured, the moon whose brightness failed, the temple that rent its garment seeing its Lord stripped naked, the day that was abased as it was changed into night, at noon, the Creation which became darkened from not ceasing sorrowing on account of the Passion of the Uniquely- Beloved Son, the earth that shook and the heaven that trembled and the air that lost its beauty, the door of the temple that broke down and the Holy Spirit who left the People, the door of the temple that fled and night that rose to rule midday, the stones hewn out of fear and the rocks split by the quake, Shoel that broke down out of fright, the tombs that burst open and the dead who rose, Death dethroned and her city of terror in ruins.

Therefore we praise You, our Lord Jesus Christ on account of the sufferings which You endured for us, and while we marvel at Your abasement which cannot be comprehended we say, truly, God, You made great deeds and marvels, and who is like You? We entreat You by the sweetness of this fragrant incense and we pray that you may unceasingly stir up in us wonder at Your Passion. Instill in us trembling at the Mystery of Your suffering. Awaken in us admiration for Your death. Warm up in us the love of Your Cross. Fill us with the glory of Your crucifixion and send us from the holy places on high Your boundless graciousness, the pardon of offences for those who followed You in Your passover with faith, and the forgiveness of

sins and to all Your gifts and Your helps. And we will offer praise and honor to You and your father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Emmanuel God was hanging on the Cross. The son of El Shaddai,
the Mighty One, let down His head and died.
His Spirit only left Him on the Cross.
His Divinity did not pass away from His body.
Human life left Him but He remains eternally.
Halleluia, may we who crucified the Most High
Through our sins turn to Him and amend our ways.

God ascended the Cross and tasted death.
He descended to Sheol, the dwelling place of the dead,
Pulled down its high walls, broke its doors open
With their brazen bars and gave life to Adam,
Which he had fashioned in His image.
He tread out the path from the tomb to Paradise by which
Journey the sons of Adam who believe in the Resurrection.
Halleluia, Your Passion our Lord, is adorable.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord is crucified on the tree with the thieves,
The Holy Spirit who was Him rent in two the veil of the temple.
He asked for water and they offered Him gall
He looked up to heaven and the lights were put out
On Friday at the ninth hour He gave up His Spirit.
Laying up His soul in the hands of His Father.
Glory to Him who suffered so much, halleluia, for our salvation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On the Cross the Son of God let down His head and by lay up His soul
In the hands of His Father, the Lord of the Creation.
The rocks spilt apart and the tombs burst open
And all creatures were astounded.
The soldiers opened the side of the Son of God
And there flowed from it blood and water
For the pardon of the world, halleluia.
Who would not return Him His love!

Another Hymn
Beloved, as I was in Jerusalem and went to Golgotha,
I saw the Son of God hanging on the Cross,
And there flowed two streams from His side,
Blood and water for the pardon of the whole world.
Halleluia, glory to Him and to Him who sent Him,
Who endured the Passion for our sake.

O Judas the betrayer, what help did you get from the crucifiers?
And of what profit was the money which you took from them?
The money you did not retain, you got only the hanging rope.
Is not the love of money the root of evil things? You revealed
Wickedness in human form, halleluia, the man doomed to perdition.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The women of Jerusalem were weeping for Christ
When He was led away to be crucified and He said to them,
"Do not weep for Me. Weep for yourselves and for your children.
The days are coming when you will say to the mountains 'Fall on us'.
If the innocent suffers thus, what will be the lot of the guilty?
But fear not for Me, soon there will be the Resurrection".

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

What a great wonder and marvel is the faith of the thief!
He confesses his Lord. He does not deny Him.
Peter perjured himself. John stood afar.
But this one cries out, "Be gracious to me, halleluia. Remember me
When You come into Your Kingdom which does not pass away."

Verses before the first reading
The whole day My enemies revile Me.
But those who praise Me pledge their loyalty to Me.

Ws	2 : 12-22	Let us lay a trap for the Just Man, for He stands in our way.
Zc	12 : 10-11	They will look at Him whom they have pierced.
	14 : 6-9	On that day there shall be light ....Living waters shall flow out of Jerusalem.
Is	65 : 1-3a	I spread out My hands all the day to a rebelliouspeople
I Jn	2 : 1-5	Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins.
	1: 7	If we live our lives in the light, we are in union with one another.
	5 : 5-8	He has given us eternal life in His Son.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
They look and stare at Me
They divide My garments among them.

Ga	6 : 11-14	God forbid that I should boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia. Halleluia.
For My food they gave Me gall.
For My thirst they gave Me vinegar.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk	15 : 34-36	At the ninth hour Jesus cried, "My God, My God..."
Jn	19 : 28-30	Jesus bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
Mt	27 : 51-54	The curtain of the temple was torn in two, the earth shook ....the centurion said, "Truly, this man was the son of God."

MEDITATION

Here takes place the Service of the Adoration of the Cross
Followed by the Life-giving Burial,
As described in the Book for the Feasts.

Saturday of the Good Tidings
Evening Prayer

Doxology Glory be to the Father...p.1

Praise *as on p. 573*

Christ who by Your death give life to our death,
Raise up our dead and be gracious to all. *3 times.*

Praise to You, our Lord.
All honor to Your Father,
Adorations and exaltation to Your Holy spirit.
And on us, sinners, Your graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem be opened
That our prayer may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven…

Opening Prayer

Lion cub who went to be shut with the sheep
who had gone astray.
whom death had caused to fall into the darkness,
and who made them to come forth out of the darkness into the light
make to come forth out of the darkness into the light
those of Your flock who are gathered
in memory of Your Cross,
and we will offer You praise and thanksgiving,
and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration
Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adoration to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 88 (87) Lord my God, I call for help by day…

RESPONSE
You who brought the Good Tidings
of life and resurrection to those who were in Shoel,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who descended into Sheol by the dead
and announced life to the departed,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who visited the dead in their graves,
in the dark recesses of Sheol,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who called with Your gentle voice
the saints who were lying at rest,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who rested by the dust of Adam
and raised him up from corruption,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who touched the bier of the dead
and delivered them death,
be gracious to all, O God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord hear us.....page-5

RESPONSE
Today the Living One in His goodness goes to recline among the dead.
He rebukes Death, takes away her crown and tramples on her head.
And He comforts the dead who receive Him with songs of praise.

Today the Lord of Adam in His love descends to his side in the tomb.
By His victory He casts down the high walls of Sheol.
His light shines on those who rest there and He raises them up.

On high the heavenly ones sing glory, the companies of the angels.
And with them the earthly ones make a joyful noise with thanksgiving.
To Him who descended among the dead and liberated His Creation

Today the word of the son of Jesse who spoke in the spirit
is fulfilled, "See the Freeborn in sheol among in the dead."
And He gives them hope by the Sign of the resurrection.

Blessed are you, Joseph of Arimathea, just man, who wrapped.
the body of the Son of God as the most precious thing.
Behold, for you are kept the Kingdom and the Paradise of joy.

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord....Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Life-giving One who of His own will tasted death to give to the dead in His compassion, and in His goodness made Himself one of the dead to announce His salvation to those who lay buried. To the Wakeful One whom the Wakeful Ones in heaven celebrate with wakefulness, who was laid among those who rest, as He willed, In His love, belongs glory, honor and adoration, at this time of evening....

Christ our God, by your death You raised up the bodies of the saints who had long since gone to their rest, and they awoke and rose from their tombs and entered into Jerusalem, and manifested themselves to many and announced the resurrection to come, and proclaimed the Good Tidings of a true and fulfilling hope. It is You who made Joseph of Arimathea to perceive the wonders which were accomplished at the moment of Your crucifixion: the earth trembled, the rocks split apart, the sun was darkened, the veil of the temple was torn asunder. Then Joseph went and asked Pilate for Your holy body and wrapped it in pure and white linen and gave it the honor due to Your goodness. As we celebrate on this day Your laying in the tomb we make memory of Your life-giving death by which was wrought our salvation, and we write and say, "O the Life-giving burial by which come to us all blessings! O the life-giving burial by which our weak race is raised from its prostration! O the Life- giving burial by which our salvation is accomplished and the hope of the resurrection has come! O the Life-giving burial about which David said, 'Behold the Freedom among the dead!' O the Life-giving burial which sprinkles on the bones of the dead the dew of graciousness, of compassion and of the resurrection! O the Life-giving burial which Joseph of Arimathea honored with sweet-smelling herbs and pure white linen!"

Therefore, Lord, who for this purpose lowered Your Greatness to utmost abasement, up to death on the Cross endured for us, we ask You to put death the old nature, worn out by the corruption of deceitful desires, and to renew in us that uprightness and holiness to be created by God. Perfect us to become pure abodes fitting Your honor. Make the dead to rest in Your Kingdom and in Your graciousness forgive their sins. And make us and them worthy of the vision of Your face, by Your goodness and that of Your Blessed and Blissful Father and Your Life-giving and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

A man called Joseph, from Arimathea, presented himself before Pilate,
In tears, and asked him, "Judge of the people,
grant, me to take the body which is hanging on the Cross."
Pilate replied to him, 'Your request is granted.
Take Him down and bury Him". Blessed are you
Who confessed Him, halleluia, He will confess you.

The Sun of righteousness was released from the arms of the Cross,
The Church received Him and kissed His wounds saying,
"Our Lord, have pity on Your body lying in corruption in Sheol,
over which Death is now ruling." And he said to her,
"Have patience, Beloved Church, for I rise and resurrect,
and My friends rejoice in Me, halleluia, those who confess My Passion."

After taking down the Son of God from the Cross, Nicodemus
prepared for His burial: myrrh and aloes and linen cloths,
a new tomb and incense and spices. He wrapped up the body
and laid it in the tomb with great honor, the Lord of the worlds.
Glory to Him who died for us, put to death by our people,
Halleluia ,and He gives to all by His cross.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

God descended among the dead and broke the bars of Sheol.
Death seathed when she heard His voice. He emptied her treasures.
Adam rose and bowed to Him in adoration, who fulfilled
the mysteries prefigured by the prophets, and spoke to Him.
"Son of God, forgive my transgressions, I know not how I sinned.
May Your graciousness be on me, halleluia, and on all my children."

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Living One, Creator of life and Giver of life,
Lord, with the sweet incense of Your gentleness
and the delightful odour of Your graciousness
You descended into Sheol and breathed into it
the resurrection and life, and by the perfume of the spices
of Your death, You slew Death, and took away her treasures,
and by Your new life You rejoiced those who were lying in sheol
and delighted them the Good Tidings of the resurrection.

May those who died in the faith be raised by You, Lord,
and in You may they exult in the place of darkness,
that by the living and the dead Your Sovereignty be adored
and Your graciousness be praised and Your Godhead exalted.

Second Hymn
Our Lord saw Adam laid low and decaying into dust and showed him
His graciousness, "Rise and take courage. It is for your children
and for you that they raised Me on the cross with the thieves
and crucified Me and vilified Me. And I descended into the tomb
to give you the life which you had lost".

Today the prefigurations come to an end, the mysteries of the prophets
are fulfilled. As a lamb led to the slaughter, like a sheep
before the shearer He was silent and did not open His mouth.
Who can tell His generation? Such are the words of the Holy Spirit,
uttered before He offered Himself to humiliation.

You entered quietly into Sheol, the city of the king of plunderers.
You suffered openly in Your own person a true death
that it might be a way to show Your compassion,
to save Your image from death.
You tasted death to put Death to death by Your death.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On Friday the whole land of Israel was plunged in darkness
because the creatures saw their Lord hanging up on Golgotha.
And today a great light shines in Sheol which had never seen the light.
for the Light entered and enlightened all its inhabitants.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is the Rain of Life which descends and sprinkles
the resurrection on those who were laid to rest in Sheol. With a
resounding voice He calls upon the Gulf, the devourer of the peoples.
and its high walls fall and its treasures and palaces are plundered,
and He makes manifest that the race of Adam will rise with glory.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed are You, Living One, who died because He willed,
and gave life to Adam who died on account of sin.

Blessed are You, Living One, who descended into sheol.
Blessed are You, Holy One, who did not suffer corruption.

Blessed are You, Joseph, who asked the body of Jesus from Pilate
and desired it as the seed and fruit of the new life.
You stretched out your arms and received the burden
who came down in your arms to give you joy.

Passing by Mount Sion I heard a tumult of cries.
I approached to see what was happening.
There was death in Judah and I wondered
why such an uproar among the executioners?

I ran to take shelter and took refuge on Golgotha.
I was astounded at that which happened to me.
My heart was sorely grieved. I raised my eyes and saw three women:
Mary His mother and the sisters of His mother.

On this evening of the day of great suffering
the Son of God made Himself a guest and ,rested in Sheol.
He paid a visit to all the saints in their dwellings,
and promised them the new life and immorality.

The dead in Sheol whom You visited offer You
eerie hymns of praise and chants in muted voices.
All the just of old prostrate and adore you,
O Son of God, and praise Your Name.

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
Son who set all free by Your death.

Christ who died for all,
Pardon us and be gracious to the whole world

Mary drew near Jesus.
She leaned her head against the Cross
and began to sing sorrowfully lamentations t Him.
My Son, who will give me the wings of an eagle
to fly to the four quarters of the earth
and invite all nations to come
to the feast of Your great slaughter.

Who then is envious of You, O Gentle One?
What did the wicked see in You?
Is it because You led them out of Egypt
and made them pass through the sea by Your power?
Or because You cured their diseases and healed their wounds?
And see how they rewarded You: with scorn, disgrace and the cross.

Your tomb resembles Paradise and you, my Son,
are like the Bridegroom and the dead like the wedding guests;
they are brought into the presence of the angels.
All creatures weep over the Lord hung on the cross.
Sun, withhold your light to hide the shame of your Lord
descend and show to those who are in darkness
how the Creator is manifesting Himself
that the dead in Sheol may see Him and exclaim:
"Behold, the Resurrection."

Earth, be in fear and trembling for in you
the Son of Your Lord is held in derision;
Open your mouth and devour His shame
caused by the wicked sons of men.
Fiery Ones, why is your ardour silent
when your Lord is exposed on the cross?
Temple, show your sadness to the people of Jerusalem,
for the Holy Spirit is leaving you,
O dead, go forth to meet my Only Son
who will raise up your bodies.

Glory to You, Creator of all creatures,
You whom even dumb creatures praise.
Glory to you, Lord of the heights,
who willed to be condemned by lower beings.
Glory to You, whom the cross carried,
You who carry the heights and the depths .
Glory to You whom the tomb held,
You who hold the uttermost parts of the earth.
The dead in Sheol will praise You,
for You made Your light shine upon them.
Glory to You and to the Father who sent You
And to You Holy Spirit adoration.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Verses before the first reading
You have made me descend into the abyss below,
Into the darkness of Sheol and the shadow of death.

Gn	37 : 29-35	Joseph thought to be dead by his brothers.
Jr	38 : 2-6	Jeremiah in a dry well.
Dn	6 : 16-23	Daniel is thrown into the lion's pit.
Is	53 : 7-12	God's suffering Servant.
Ac	13 : 26-39	Forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
I was counted among those who descended into the pit,
I was like a man deprived of all support.

Rom 5:1-12 How we are put right with God.

Acclamations before the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The freedom is among the dead,
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia,
Like the dead who lie in the tombs,
Halleluia, halleluia ,halleluia.

Lk 23:50-56 Jesus is buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.
Praise

MEDITATION

SERVICE OF PROTECTION FOR THE NIGHT

Doxology Glory be to the Father and to the Son…p-1
Praise

Christ who by Your death give life to our death
Raise up our dead, and be gracious to all. *3 times*

Glory to You, our Lord.
All honor to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us,sinners,graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened,
That our prayers may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven …

Psalm 4 Answer me when I call, God, Holy Savoir…

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord… Compassionate Lord, we praise…

Praise... to Him is alive by nature and is the Giver of life, and who died in the flesh of His own will, and descended into Sheol as it seemed good to Him, who sowed life among the dead by His descent, and by His burial announced the resurrection to those who lay buried. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration...

Christ our God, Life divine, incorruptible and imperishable, You are immortal in Your divine nature, and today, of Your own will, You were knit togher with Death for the sake of our mortal race, in death on the Cross and slaughter, on account of the transgression of the commandments by the head of the creation, the first Adam. On this same day, in Your goodness, You were buried to remove from us the rule of Death and to liberate for ever from the shackles of morality, those who were laid to rest in Sheol, and to bestow on them the new life, incorruptible. Today the seals are set on the entrance into the tomb, to make to pass away the corruption in the graves. Today myrrh and aloes and a white linen shroud are prepared for the burial. Today Joseph the councillor of Arimathea asks Your body from Pilate that the he may place it in a tomb newly hewn out. Today Nicodemus and Joseph join together for Your burial full of life and embalm You with myrrh and aloes and wrap You up in a linen cloth and place you in the tomb newly hewn out, in the garden, in which no one else had yet been placed, and they seal You up with the stone. Today You make Your bed on the earth and You sleep by the dust of Adam that he might resurrect and stand with You. Today Death is struck and infuriated by Your death, and wretched Sheol grows bitter at Your coming. Today the bones of the departed show signs of life as they await You, because from Your death they feel the odour of the new life, and become aware of the resurrection by Your life-giving burial. Today Your Church beseeches from You and Your flock entreats You that You will release them from their bonds and shackles and their enslavement to evil, and deliver them from the death of sin, that by the new life, free from corruption, they may offer praise to you and your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Behold the Freeborn among the dead
and the Giver of life in the tomb.

He goes to rest with the dead
and to visit them in His compassion,
to give to all those who lay buried
the hope of the resurrection. And they sing praise.

Today the Mighty One binds Death with great power
and wrests from her the captives,
beginning with our father, the first Adam.
He pulls down wretched Sheol,
demolishes its foundations
and lays waste its palaces.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to You, our Lord,
who in Your love for our race lowered Your Greatness,
suffered the Passion and the cross
and tasted death for us,
restoring Adam and his children
to the Kingdom and to eternal glory.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Christ the True Priest,
who sacrificed Yourself on the height of Golgotha,
for the sake of Adam, the earthly one,
You descended into now deep recesses of Shoel.
Make to dwell now Your peace and tranquility
in the Holy Church redeemed by Your Cross.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed are You, Living One, who died because You willed,
and gave life to Adam who died on account of sin.

Blessed are You, Living One, who descended into Sheol.
Blessed are You, Holy One, who did not suffer corruption.

Prince of Life who surrendered Your life,
and tasted death of Your own will,
and did not allow Death to prevail over You who give life to all,
You gave Yourself and made Death captive to raise all to life.

The people did not defeat Christ by seizing Him and hanging
Him on the cross. He surrendered Himself to the slaughter
and tasted death instead of Adam
that by it he might return to the Heavenly Kingdom.

The earthly ones could not reach out to His Greatness
to rise up with Him; He lowered Himself to them to give them life.
But they fell on Him and killed Him
who had come to heal their diseases.

Let us offer praise to the Hidden Father
and adoration to the Son who suffered for us
and thanksgiving to the Spirit, the Giver of life,
three persons, three names, one being,
which cannot be comprehended.

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
Son, who set us free by Your death.

Christ who died for all,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Glory to You, our Lord, whose death
Became the death of Death who died by it.
You laid a snare for Satan, and both,
Satan and Death, fell, and Adam conquered.

Our Lord is a marvel who visited us by His death
and by His crucifixion left the worlds marveling.
He cried out in a resounding voice and death heard it.
The creation was terrified and the rocks split apart.
Light shone in the darkness,
and the radiance of the Son did away with Death.

Those who were lying prostrate in Sheol clapped their hands
for the voice of the Resurrection that called them.
Death terror-stricken howled and said to Satan, her friend,
"Hear from me what happened, the tombs burst open
and the dead went forth".

"His name is Jesus," answered the Evil One.
"He is the Fruit which came to the Virgin.
He is the Son of God, and the worlds quaked
when He was crucified on Golgotha.
He takes away Your burden, He who was crucified
at the hands of the people who listened to me."

Glory to Him who suffered for sake
and who killed Death who killed us.
Thanksgiving to His Hidden Father
who went Him to restore us to life.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy,
who resurrects us and makes us anew.
Graciousness and compassion on us at all times. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Praise

Christ who by Your death gave life to our death…
As at the beginning of this Service, p.573

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father and to the Son…p.1

Praise Christ who by Your… as on p. 520

Opening Prayer

O Lord, in their audacity,
the wicked have put You to death,
but Joseph and his sons obtained to take Your body
and they buried it with faith.
The high priests posted guards at Your tomb,
but now You are worshipped by all nations and countries.
Praise is offered to You from all mouths and glory in every tongue,
to You who are Christ, Lord , God and Savoir,
and to Your Father and Your Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

AWAKENINGSERVICE

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve…p.9

RESPONSE
Awaken us to sing praise to You, O Watcher who watch over us,
and deliver us from the snares of the Enemy.

On this night the Mighty One rested in Sheol like a lion,
and Death and Satan trembled at His voice.

On this night He who gives life to the Creation lay in the tomb.
Adam awoke and sang praise with great joy.

On this night Adam raised his head from the dust
and saw his Creator who had descended to visit him.

On this night the our mother Eve heard His voice and said,
"Praise to the good One who suffered death for our salvation".

On this night the Giver of life willed to recline among the dead.
He suffered death of His own will give life to Adam.

FIRST WATCH

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord…Compassionate Lord, we praise…

Praise to You and thanksgiving to You, Living One and Giver of life who died in the flesh and gave life to the race of the mortal ones. Adoration to You and exhalation, Holy One who did not suffer corruption in Shoel. Honor and thanksgiving to You, God mighty for evermore who entered the place of the dead and announced the new life to those who lay buried and brought the Good Tidings of the Resurrection to those who had fallen asleep, and life and immortality to the mortal ones. Our Lord, receive our prayers and accept our petitions and give us and our departed the hope of the new life, and the resurrection and an open face. And we will praise You and offer thanksgiving to You, at this time of the night vigil…

Christ our God, hope of the mortals and resurrection f the dead, after Your descent from the wood of the cross, when Joseph the just and Nicodemus the doctor of the law asked for Your holy body and wrapped it in linen cloths and embalmed with myrrh and aloes and brought You and placed You in a tomb like one of the dead. Then You roused Sheol by Your mighty power and You despoiled Death the tyrant of his treasures by Your strength, and put in bonds the strong one who had enslaved humankind, and made to return the captive who was made captive by his rebellion. You shook the palaces of the Adversary an laid waste the high walls of the city which devours the mighty. You trampled on his neck and crushed his head who had overthrown the head of our race through envy. You made the thief who confessed You enter paradise, as You promised, and You broke the spear of the Winged Creature that guarded it and made the human race to return to their inheritance. Sheol grew bitter when he saw You coming. According to the word of the prophet, the dead worshipped in the place of the mortals. The just who waited to see You went forth and their bodies praised You and their souls became conscious of Your presence. You tasted a cruel death like human being and You drank the bitter cup like a weak mortal. But this frightening and terrible death was only a rest and You wiped away the tears from every place. Behold, the living and the dead praise You. Behold, every mouth sings to You with its tongue. Praise to You who died and gave us life. Praise to You who slept and awakened us. Praise to You who were raised up without corruption and became the Firstborn from among the dead and the First fruits of those who fell asleep.

Therefore we beseech You that will deliver us from the second death and save us from the corruption of sin. Give pleasure to the departed who have rested in Your hope in Your Heavenly Kingdom, that we and they may offer You praise and thanksgiving, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Who would not be astounded to see the Freeborn among the dead,
as one dead and buried, He who imprisoned Death in the abyss?

He hung upon the cross and Creation trembled.
He reclined in Sheol and gave life to the dead.
Glory to Him who humbled himself for the sake of Adam
who had fallen on account of the transgression of the commandment.
He died to give Him life, halleluia Glory for His humiliation.

He who is above suffering endured suffering in the flesh.
God, the Immortal One, willed to die.
And after His death descended into the abyss of Sheol.
Because of His love for Adam He lay down among the dead,
but on the third day He rose from death.
Angels and men sing praise, halleluiah , and magnify His name.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy spirit.

"Tell me, King David, what will happen to Jerusalem
who crucified the Lord and chose to free Barabbas instead of Him?"
"Her foundations will be uncovered", answered David.
"There will not be left in her one stone upon another".
But all this will be the beginning of the birth pangs.
And those on high will cry with us, halleluia.
Praise to You, Lord, who called the Church.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The fountain from the side of Him who gives life to all
testifies the death and life of God the Word.
Water cries out that God has been slain.
Blood witness that He is life by nature.
By the blood and water from His side the Church is forgiven
and washed from the stains of her fathers and takes possession
of her inheritance, halleluia, and she enters the bridal feast.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed are You, Living One, who died because You willed,
and gave life to Adam who had died on account of sin.

Blessed are You, Living One, who descended into Sheol.
Blessed are You, Holy One, who did not suffer corruption.

This night, He lay down with love
by the dust of Adam head of all generations,
The Lord of Eden who lowered Himself
And bore sufferings and tasted death of His own will.

Tonight, the Voice cried in the vast dwelling of Death,
The devourer of the dead, that which in the garden
Called our father Adam when he was stripped of the glory
in which he had been clothed.

Tonight He lay down in the tomb
He who gives life to the whole Creation,
Who descended to visit also those who lay buried,
And to bring the Good Tidings to the just of the first generations,
"Behold, the time has come for You to enter heaven".

Tonight they saw a great light within Sheol
The souls who had been there for a long time,
When the Child of the Hidden Father descended
And announced to them life for the dead.

All the spirits of the just of old gave praise
each one in his way to the Living One buried with them.
"Blessing and adoration to Him, with thanksgiving,
and to His Father who sent Him and to the Holy Spirit".

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to all,
Son who set us free by Your death.

Christ who died for all,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

God entered and rested in the tomb like a son of man,
and manifested the power of His divinity to the bones of the just.
They become aware of Him and knew that He had come
to raise their bodies from the dust. And they sang praise
for His goodness, who lowered Himself to visit them.

On this day the Giver of life tasted death for the sake of sinners,
Tonight the Freeborn is among the dead, as it is written,
The Living One is within the tomb
to give life to Adam and his children.

Tonight the Giver of life willed to lie down with the dead.
Of His own will He entered the tomb,
who give us life to the mortal ones.
Tonight the Immortal One tasted death for our sake.
He breathed his fragrance on the dead and they came to life,
and they sang praise for His new life.

To give be praise from all mouths,
Christ who give us life by Your death.
Thanksgiving to Your Hidden Father
who sent You for our salvation.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy,
Who raises us from the dust.
And upon us all Your graciousness for ever and ever.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Freeborn is among the dead,
halleluiah, halleluiah, halleluia,
Like the dead who lie in the tombs,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 19:31-37 The side of Jesus is pierced with a spear.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 43 (42) Defend me, O God, and plead my cause...

RESPONSE
Today the Living One in His goodness goes to recline among the dead.
He rebukes Death and takes away her crown and tramples on her head.
And He comforts the dead who receive Him with songs of praise.

Today the Lord of Adam in His love descends to his side in the tomb
By His victory He casts down the high walls of Sheol.
His light shines on those who rest there and He raises them up.

On high the heavenly ones sing glory, the companies of the angels,
and with them the earthly ones make a joyful noise with thanksgiving,
to Him who descended among the dead and liberated His Creation.

Today the word of the son of Jesse who spoke in the Spirit
is fulfilled, "See the freedom in Sheol among the dead".
And He gives them hope by the sign of the resurrection.

Blessed are you, Joseph of Arimathea, just man, who wrapped
the body of the Son of God as the most precious thing.
Behold, for you are kept the Kingdom and the Paradise of joy.

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise....

Praise ... to the Living One from whose death life burst forth to us, by whose burial the resurrection is bestowed on us, from whose humiliation comes our exaltation, who by His descent into Sheol raised us up, and by His sleep in the grave awakens us. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil.

What word or mind can be found to tell the things which were accomplished today concerning that Hidden Offspring that cannot be conceived or spoken of ? Yesterday was the Friday of the passion, judgment and crucifixion, and today is the Sabbath of rest and calm. Yesterday the scribes and elders and the chief priests were mocking, today the dead who lay in the dust sing praise. Yesterday the rocks were rent and the veil of the temple was torn asunder, today the tomb was opened in joy. Yesterday the Mighty One was tied to a pillar and today in Sheol he lies in the dust of Adam. Yesterday was Friday full of sorrow and darkness, today is the Sabbath of hope and joy. Yesterday the crucifiers raged like madmen, today the dead in Sheol sing praise. Yesterday Friday the jeering crowd mobbed the city,

today Saturday the Giver of life to the dead descends in Sheol and lays waste its walls and spoils its treasures. Today Sheol is resplendent with praises and, as in the month of April, the dead shoot up like flowers, rejoicing in their tombs. Today the house of the dead becomes gloomy when they see that Death is bound and Adam is released who was bound captive. Today Sheol, the place of those who died is cast down because it knows its captives have returned to their former place. Today those who lay in the dust shout praise from their mouths, because their Redeemer has descended to them. Today all those who slept cry out with one accord, "Blessed is the glory of the Lord from His place, for ever".

We also today intercede before You by this fragrant incense which we offer to You will make us worthy of Your visitation, Lord, and bestow on us pardon of offences and forgiveness of sins. Grant us that we may live by Your Death and rejoice in Your Resurrection and be glad at Your Rising. Sprinkle the dew of Your mercy and compassion on the departed believers and give rest to their souls in Your Heavenly Kingdom, that we and they may offer You praise and thanksgiving, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Who would not be astounded at this?
The earth quaked at His death, but the church
takes refuge in that death in Jerusalem.
The wicked rejected Him and crucified Him,
but the Church cries out: "This is the Son of God".
Malefactors opened His side, but the Church
is saved by His blood. He was beaten and wounded
but the creation is liberated by Him.
Behold the Wakeful Ones stand the sons of men cry out,
"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God".

Our Savoir, when Your body
was taken down from the Cross,
it was laid in a tomb sealed with a big stone.
The wicked did not understand

that You entered the tomb for sake of Adam,
to take Him from there to the Paradise full of blessings.
Glory to You for Your humiliation.
He who fills the whole creation is contained in a narrow tomb
to give life to Adam and to take him up to heaven.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son to the Holy Spirit.

When the Lord of creation hung on the Cross on Golgotha
heaven and earth were writhing under suffering
and all creatures stood in mourning.
The roaring sea became silent;
the sun and the moon were darkened;
the Wakeful Ones on high were terrified;
the legions of light made signs to one another;
the Winged Creatures and the Fiery Ones covered their faces
when they saw our gracious Lord
lying in the tomb for Adam, His beloved.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Wonderful are You, Son of God, who like a spy
put on the garment of Sheol and descended into that place
and lay down with Death in utter abjection.
And when Your will was fulfilled
You rose from the tomb and overthrew the Prince of Death
and resurrected with glory. The dead recognized You,
the angels in their white garments descended to honour You
and announced to the apostles that You were risen from the tomb.
"Behold, He is going before you to Galilee".

Verses for the Passion
Blessed are You Living One, who died because You willed,
and gave life to Adam who died on account of sin.

Blessed are You, Living One, who descended into Sheol.
Blessed are You, Holy One, who did not suffer corruption.

Tonight Adam is glad because the Son of his daughter
is by his side in the tomb. He entered like a pilgrim
to spend the night in Sheol but He awoke
those who were lying motionless in this place.

Today our father Adam raises his head from the dust
and confesses the Firstborn who lowered Himself
to visit him, and he bows to Him in adoration,
because He descended and endured the passion for his sake.

Today Abel the just, slain iniquitously, sings praise
to the Life-giving One who gives life to the dead
and lowered Himself of His own will
to the house of the dead to give them life.

Tonight Eve sings praise to Him who revives and gives life,
and did not abandon her in the house of the dead,
but descended to her side, out of love,
to make her return to Paradise.

Glory to the Living One who suffered to be put to death
and who lay His spirit in the hands of His Father
And He slept in Sheol for the sake of His image,
Adam, the work of his hands, and gave him life eternal.

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Blessed is Christ, the key that throws Sheol open.
He shall come and open it again on the day of the resurrection.

Glory to You who raise the dead from their graves,
and on the day of the resurrection clothe them with glory.

You who lie in the grave, see the Resurrected at your sides.
He sprinkles a shower of graciousness on your bones.
O You who dwell in the grave, the Son of God is come to the tomb
and great peace reigns in the place of sorrows.

You who lie in Sheol, the new life has come to you.
Awake, you the house of perdition, and sing loud praises,
O dead, confess Him who was pleased to be dead,
and by His death makes to shines a radiant light on your bodies.

The lion cub roars in Sheol. Death hears and trembles
and its crown tumbles down in the darkness.
In his dwelling in Sheol Adam hears the voice of the Son
and his face is radiant with joy, as John at the supper,
when he lay close to the breast of his Lord.

Glory to the Father who fashioned Adam from the dust of the earth.
Adoration to the Son who descended to visit him in the tomb.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit by whom the just in Sheol awoke
and offered praise to Him who visited them and raised them to life.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
The Freeborn is among the dead,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Like the dead who lie in the tombs,
halleluia halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 15:45-47 Pilate grants to Joseph of Arimathea the body of Jesus.

MEDIATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place…p.11

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord…	Compassionate Lord, we praise…

Praise.. to the Living One and Giver of life who was knit…
As on the Great Friday of the Crucifixion, Ninth Hour, p. 560

Hymn
Tonight the light of the Son shines among the dead.
The just hasten to meet Him and offer Him their adorations.
All the companies of the prophets sing hosannas in His honour.
Halleluia, He sprinkles on their graves the dew of the resurrection
and gives them the new life.

Tonight all the companies of the prophets realize
that the Lord has fulfilled their sayings.
He has descended to visit the buried
And to sprinkle dew on their bones, halleluia,
And He gives them the pledge of life,
That He will come to raise their bodies .

Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

It is right to thank You all that You endured for us:
Your passion and Your death and burial among the dead.
In You we are strengthened
by the commemoration of Your Holy Passion.
And now that we complete it, be gracious to us, halleluia,
give us the full wage, in Your goodness, Good One, who love us.

From age to age and to for ever. Amen.

Mouths and tongues do not cease to praise You,
Creator of all the worlds. Adam sinned and died
and his debt was entered in the account of his children.
But You, the Pure One, expiated for Him, halleluia.
Blessed be Your death. Blessed be Your resurrection,
Jesus, Savior of the world.

Mary's Song
And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord.
My Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
He has looked on His servant in her nothingness.
Henceforth all generations will count me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is holy and His graciousness
is from age to age on those who revere Him.

He has conquered by His mighty arm
And has scattered the proud-hearted.
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
but He has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but sent the rich away empty,
He has helped Israel His servant
remembering His graciousness,
as He had promised to our forefathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever

Glory be to the Father… From age to age….

RESPONSE
In the heavens above You are honoured with wonder,
and on earth the Church never ceases to sing Your praise.
Peace to you, O Mother and Virgin.

He who conquered death by His descent in to Sheol
and despoiled its treasures and broke down its palaces,
removed the judgment against us by His Cross.

He who rested in the tomb as a dead man,
as God, gives life to the dead.
To the Living One who visited the dead, our adorations.

Above in the heavens, the Wakeful Ones serve Him,
and below on earth, men worship Him. To Him who became man
for the sake of Adam and his children, our adorations.

You are above and below. You are in heaven and on earth.
Jonah tells us that the sea swallowed him up.
You the Lord of the seas and the rivers drew him out.

Psalm 133 (132) How good and beautiful it is for brothers…p.14

RESPONSE Remember Mary, and may she help us…

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens…p.16

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord…compassionate Lord, we praise…
Praise…to the word of the Eternal Father….
As on Thursday of the Great Passover, Night vigil, p. 487

Hymn
In return for His loveliness and for all His blessings
He was given the Cross to carry on His shoulder, all alone,
and He was crucified like a malefactor between two thieves.
Halleluia , halleluia. blessed is He who turned away from those who refused to recognize Him and in their place betrothed the Church.

How gentle He remained while He was reviled
And how He drew near those whom He knew would ill-treat Him.
As if it were for Him a restful pause, a time to regain strength,
He did not murmur when they vilified Him.
Halleluiah, halleluiah. Blessed is Your abasement, O Lord of all

This night Adam head of all races bowed to Him in adoration,
When He saw His light breaking forth in brightness upon him.
And he praised His goodness and offered thanksgivings.
The Lord stretched out His hand, raised him and drew him out,
And made him ascend out of Sheol, halleluia, halleluia.
Glory to Him and to Him Who sent Him to give us life.

Hymn for all the Saints
Mount Sinai shook at Your presence, Lord God,
And the Virgin Mary carried You,
who carry the heights and the depths.
She conceived You without partnership
and brought You forth in a manner beyond words
Magnify, Lord, the memory of Your Mother.

Peace to You Mary, Holy Virgin, cries the Creation.
who like a ship carried Him
who fashions the babies in the wombs.
You carried Him who carried you
and the Wakeful Ones offer You the greeting of peace.
Blessed is the Lord who manifested Himself from your womb.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

It is good to honour the bones of the saints whom Christ loved,
as the bones of the glorious Joseph were given honour by Moses,
At the time of trembling may they be for us intercessors before God
that we may not be struck down on the Great Day of judgement .

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The saints are invited to the Kingdom on high and to life eternal,
That which ear has not heard and eye of flesh has not seen
And which has not entered the heart of human beings.
Great is the blessedness of those who are found worthy of it,
the glorious ones who have loved Christ.

Those who are signed with the seal of Christ from baptism
and who ate His holy body and drank His Blood of forgiveness
shall be raised by Him from the earth.
They shall shake off the dust of the earth and be clothed with glory.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed are You, Living One, who died because You willed,
and gave life to Adam who died on account of sin.

Blessed are You, Living One, who descended into Sheol,
Blessed are You, Holy one, who did not suffer corruption.

Tonight the Lord of all slumbered and slept among the dead,
and He slew Death and pulled down Sheol,
and He took Adam out of the gulf of perdition
and made him ascend with Himself to Him who sent Him.

Tonight the Son of God came as a pilgrim to the dead in Sheol
and there rose rows and mounts of worms looking at Him
as there was no more decay, nor death the food for them to eat.

Tonight Adam chants praises as he is lying in Sheol
when he sees, at his side close to him, the Power
which fashioned him and adorned him and gave him strength
who suffered death for his sake.

You left angels wrapped in light and the spirits clothed in glory,
Your graciousness constrained you to embrace contempt,
In all this You loved Adam
who descended into Sheol and You dwelt with him.

To You all praises is due, all honour, all exaltation,
all thanksgiving, all glory, all adoration,
with Your father and the Holy Spirit.
Blessed is Your glory.

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Blessed is Christ, the key that throws Sheol open.
He shall come and open it again on the day of the resurrection.

Glory to You who raised the dead from their graves,
and on the day of the resurrection clothes them with glory.

He descends among the dead, the Savior among exiles.
The plunderer trembles, and in bewilderment lets the captives go.
The bonds and the shackles that held them are broken
and cries of glory to the Savior are heard.

Garlands of praises and adorations are offered
by the just whom He awakes by His crucifixion.
First Adam, the head of all races comes to worship, and Seth,
the beautiful, and the house of Noah together with Abraham.

Then come the just, the fathers and the leaders of the peoples,
the priests and the kings whom the prince of Sheol
first took captive. Moses and all the companies of the prophets,
Aaron the priest and all the priests, sons of Levi,
offer their adorations.

All creatures offer praise with loud voices to the Living One
who was killed and willed to be dead in Sheol.
The living and the dead adore You because You give them life.
They bless You the Father who sent You and the Holy Spirit.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
The Freeborn is among the dead,
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
like the dead who lie in the tombs,
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 23:55-56 The women saw the body in the tomb.
Praise

MEDITATION

Morning Service

Doxology Glory be to the Father and to the Son…p.1

Praise

At this time of morning, we confess You and we adore You,
Christ who saved us by Your passion and Your humiliation. *3 times*

Glory to You, our Lord.
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltaltation to the Holy Spirit.
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened
That our prayers may enter into Your presence, O Christ.

Our Father in heaven…

Opening Prayer

Christ our God,
when You offered Yourself in sacrifice for our salvation,
You burst forth from Your slaughter into new life for us.
By Your passion You rid us from sluggishness.
From Your death comes the resurrection and a good hope.
You accomplish and fulfill the sign prefigured by Jonah
in the belly of the whale,
and You come to call to repentance those who do not believe in You.
Bestow then on us, Lord, a heart that believes in You without doubt.
By Your death give new life to our dejected minds and by Your burial
release our hearts from the stranglehold of our passions.
Grant pardon to those who fall into sin,
and to those who lie buried give hope with joy,
that Your Lordship may be celebrated by all,
Your Sovereignty adored,
and Your Divinity exalted,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 Be gracious to us, O God… *As on Monday* p. 405

RESPONSE

You who are the Firstborn from among the dead
and also the head of those who slept,
be gracious to all, O God.

By Your voice You have made Sheol to tremble
may those who slept be awakened to give Your praise.
be gracious to all, O God.

You who made the light of the resurrection to shine
on the spirits of the just who were lying in Sheol,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who were slain, and among the dead,
and also the Freeborn in Sheol,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who announced the Good Tidings of salvation
to the departed in their dwelling in Sheol,
be gracious to all, O God.

To You be glory, Hope of the departed,
who descended to visit the dead in Sheol,
be gracious to all, O God.

Psalm 63 My God, You are My God… *As on Monday* p. 407

RESPONSE

You who from the beginning were in glory
with the Heavenly Father,
You willed to become the Son of the Virgin
and endured the passion for our sake,
and tasted death to give us life,
and descended into Sheol to raise us up, praise to You
who came to humiliation for the salvation of Adam.

Strong One who bear the Creation,
and the wood of the Cross carried You.
Living One who give life to the dead,
and You willed to lie among the departed.
You whom the world of beings cannot comprise
and the Creation cannot contain, the tomb contained You,
who came to humiliation for the salvation of Adam.

Seeing You on the Cross the sun held its rays.
The earth quaked and swayed, but with a sign
You gave it support and it did not fall.
Sheol was terrified. Your voice shook its foundations,
And Adam who was lying there awoke with his children.
And they sang hymns of praise to You.

Living One ,who descended to visit Adam in the tomb,
Adam saw You and he rejoiced and bowed hid head.
Abel, and Seth and Melchizedek bowed in adoration to You,
Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob rose to praise You,
and offer their adorations due to Your Godhead.

"Remember me", cried out to You thief at Your right hand,
"When You come in glory with Your holy angels".
And we with him cry out with faith and say, "Christ our King,
who were crucified for our sake, be gracious to all".

Psalm 19 The heavens proclaim the glory of god. . . *As on Monday*; p. 408

RESPONSE
Christ God who descended into Sheol with the Good Tidings
of the resurrection and life for those who lay imprisoned there,
be gracious to all, O God.

Christ who by Your death give life to the mortal ones,
and gave hope and salvation to those who were lying in Sheol
be gracious to all, O God.

Christ God who announced the Good Tidings
of the resurrection and life to those who were lying in Sheol,
be gracious to all, O God.

Today the companies of the just rejoice in the tombs,
because He whose day they awaited to see descended to be with them.

The prophet David rose and praised Him who fulfilled his prophecy,
"Behold the Freeborn among the dead, as I prophesied".

Hymn for God's Victory and Prayer for the Redeemer
Sing to the Lord a new song..... *As on Monday,* p. 409

RESPONSE
Today the Lord of Adam goes to the house of the dead
to reclaim him, in His goodness. With power
He pulls down the high walls of Sheol and makes His light to shine
in its deepest recesses, and resurrects the dead.

Today the Living One who does not die, in His goodness,
enters and lies down in the house of the dead.
He rebukes Death, takes away her crown and tramples on her head.
And He gives courage to those who lay buried who receive Him with joy.

Today Adam, the head of all peoples and nations, rejoices
for the Lord of Creation descended from highest heaven
and visited him with love and slew Death the slayer,
and raised him up from his fall.

Today the Firstborn reclines among the dead
in the place of the departed.
and He sprinkles the dew of life and of the resurrection,
and they offer Him their adoration in Sheol.

Christ who by the sacrifice of Yourself gave peace to the Creation,
give now peace to the leaders of this world who are thinking of war,
that peace may increase in the habitable earth
and Your Name be praised.

Psalm 138 O Lord, You search me and You know me.....

RESPONSE
Today our Lord descended and stood in Sheol like a mighty one.
Its foundations shook and death reeled when He called out there.

Today Adam the Elder rejoices, exults and offers praise,
because the Son of his daughter reclines by his side among the dead.

Today, Abel rises, the firstborn of the slain, and cries out saying, "He comes with peace, the Living One, slain to resurrect the dead".

Today, the Freeborn, the Lord of Adam, lies down beside the dead,
and their bones become aware that He is with them.

Today all the just praise the Son of God
who comforts them by His descent into the tomb.

Today they post guards and soldiers around the tomb
of the Strong One who breaks the bars of Sheol

Today the Church of believers rejoice and sings praise
to the Firstborn who sets her children free, by his death.

The Beatitudes Mt 5: 3-11

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are you when men insult you and persecute you,
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely, because of Me.
Then rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven.

Glory be to the Father… From age to age ….

RESPONSE

Remember us Lord, when You rest in Your Kingdom above,
with the Virgin Mary who bore you, at the head of all the just.
Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

Today our Lord descends and stands in Sheol and His voice resounds.
Its foundations are shaken and He raises up the dead.
Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

Today Adam, the Head of our nature, rejoices and exults
and he offers praise to His Lord who descended to visit Him.
Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

Today the just raise up their heads when they see
the light shining on them in the deepest recesses of Sheol.
Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

Today alarm resounds in Sheol, even its foundations shake,
when He who gives life to the dead descends.
Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

Glory to the Father, and thanksgiving to the Son who is from Him,
and to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy, the Mystery of the Trinity.
Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts… We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord… Compassionate Lord, we praise…

Praise… to the Giver of Life who delivered Himself to the executioners and committed His spirit into the hands of the Father who sent Him. Joseph the just asked for His body, to bury, it in a good tomb, and those who condemned Him posted guards around it, and He stayed for three days among the dead. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of morning…

Christ our God who are the true life, You suffered to passion of Your own will. You endured the cross and died like the mortal ones. For three days You remained in Sheol as Jonah who prefigured You by remaining three days in the belly of the fish. Jacob the Just prophesied about You, the lion cub who stooped down and crouched as a mighty one, and came up from the kill. Samson prefigured You by the sweet food which came out of the devourer, bitter death. The thief confessed that You are the Heavenly King, and he heard from You these words, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise". The centurion confessed You to be truly the Son of God. The noble Joseph, like a beloved disciple, asked Your body from Pilate the Governor, and put Your holy body in a new tomb after wrapping it in a burial shroud and embalming it with myrrh, honouring it as much as he could. Then, as the prophet foretold, Sheol was embittered by Your coming when he received You as a dead. Now it could be rightly said, "Death, where is your sting? Sheol, where is your victory?" Death is devoured for ever by the Lord's victory and no longer rules over life, for the All powerful Lord has conquered death, making it give up its spoils, the race of Adam….The council of the high priests who provoked the death of the Son of the Master of the vineyard and offered Him vinegar and scoffed at Him saying, "Look at Him who said He would destroy the temple and build it up again within three days. May He give life to Himself now!" The Church however was in anguish because of the death of her Betrothed. She answered the unbelievers, as the prophet had taught her to say, "Do not rejoice, O my enemy, though I am crushed, I shall rise again. Though I am in utter darkness the Lord is my light. My eyes look at the light and use it spreading among the nations. I am astounded and filled with wonder. The dead were subject to corruption but they rise incorruptible. Those who died as mortal men rise up in glory. The sick are made whole.

The bodies that lived according to the old nature become spiritual". We offer praise to Him and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

Today the Freeborn reclines among the dead.
He lies down Himself, of His own will.
When they departed, the crucifiers
posted guards to watch over the tomb.
Heaven and earth are filled with Him
and the tomb holds Him, of His own will.
Glory to Him who humbled Himself
to give life to the dead by His death.
And He makes Adam and his children
to ascend and to enter into heaven.

Heaven and earth, angels and people,
are astounded and marvel
when Joseph brings the body of the Son into the tomb
and rolls the stone against the entrance.
With tears, in great sorrow, he cries out,
"Arise, Lord, as one who sleeps,
and judge Jerusalem
who crucified You who are innocent."
and the Church rejoices who receives You
and is enriched by You for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy spirit.

On this day on which God rested
after the work of the Creation
our King descended into sheol,
the Living One was silent and quiet among the dead.
The soldiers divided His garments.
The Church came near Him and received His body.
Those who dared to crucify Him

have their foundations pulled down.
You who confessed Him on the cross,
behold, He sets you at His right hand.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today our Lord spreads among the dead
the great hope of the resurrection.
When He enters into the tomb
He breaks into sheol ,
making a breach through its walls,
and lays waste its palaces after leading away the captives.
He makes them return to life.
He rejoice the Church of believers,
strengthening her everywhere.
And He gives her authority over the habitable earth.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Living One, Creator of life, and Giver of life,
Lord, with the fragrant incense of Your gentleness,
and the delightful odour of Your graciousness,
You descended in to Sheol and breathed into it the resurrection and life,
and by Your new life You rejoiced those who were lying in Sheol,
and You gladdened them by the Good Tidings of the Resurrection.

May those who died in the faith be raised by You, Lord,
and in You may they exult in the place of darkness,
that by the living and the dead Your Sovereignty may be adored,
and Your Graciousness be praised, and Your Godhead exalted.

Second Hymn
The Fiery Ones cover their faces
and hallow Him with trembling.
The son made of the dust of the earth
spit in His face in the tribunal.
In return for all good things
the wicked repay Him with all evil.

"I am about to suffer",
said the Lord to His disciples.
"It is for this that the Father sent Me,
that I be brought unto death.
Do not grieve because I die.
I shall rise again with glory, without corruption".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy spirit.

It is by Your wounds that we are healed,
as Isaiah said, and the blood that flows from Your side
purifies the world from all its iniquity.
You were wounded for our transgressions.
Upon You was the chastisement that makes us whole.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Death is like a harbour that puts an end to all vexation.
There we rest from all harassments.
All day long they led Him to suffering and humiliation.
He opened not His mouth in His affliction.
and He bore disgrace from wicked people.

Verses before the first reading

They pleased themselves with their sin,
thinking that since He was buried He would no more trouble them.

Jon	1: 10-17	Jonath in the belly of the fish for three days.
Zp	3 : 8-13	A people humble and lowly.
I P	3 : 17-22	He descended and preached to the spirits in Sheol.

Verses before the reading of Saint Paul
Truly You have done marvellous things for the dead.
They will arise to thank You.

2Co 5 : 11- 19 If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation.

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
Now I will arise, says the Lord,
And set to work their salvation openly.
Halleluiah, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 27:62-66 The guards at the tomb.

Verses for the Passion
Blessed are You, Living One, who died because You willed,
And who gave life to Adam who died on account of sin.

Blessed are You, Living One, who descended into sheol
Blessed are You, Holy One, who did not suffer corruption.

Son, from whose radiance all the powers of fire and spirit see,
in Your graciousness order the months of the year
that the earth may produce all good things, and Your children
may offer thanksgiving to You who have compassion on all.

Good Shepherd who gave Yourself up
and saved Your sheep by Your blood of forgiveness,
be the Keeper of this place, and make to dwell in it
great peace, and preserve it from all harm.

I ran for shelter and took refuge on Golgotha and I was astounded.
What happened to me? My heart melted, seeing women weeping,
Mary His mother and the sister of His mother crying bitterly.

And as I considered this and was amazed,
I came near, to hear whose lament it was.
And I saw women weeping with painful groanings
and lamenting bitterly the Uniquely-Beloved Son of God.

Glory to the Father who sent His Son
To be sacrificed on the summit of the cross.
Adoration to the Son who died because He willed,
and who was embalmed and who entered into the tomb.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who fulfils the Mysteries.

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to all,
Son who set all free by Your death.

Christ who died for our sake,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Tonight the Lord of Adam lay down in the house of the dead,
Adam rose and all his children, and they confessed Him in their tombs.
Tonight the whole company of the prophets exults because the living One is
with them and has fulfilled the Mysteries of their prophecies.

Adam, the head of all races, rightly comes to adore Him. After him
the gentle Abel who by his death prefigured Him and was His symbol.
Then Seth, the beautiful, and with him all the great fathers,
the families of Noah and Abraham, all the just and saintly people.

Melchizedek the high priest who prefigured His priesthood.
Moses and Aaron and Joshua and all the prophets, all the people
from one age to another, all generations, rank after rank
enter His presence and adore the Lord who saves us from death

Glory to the Exalted One who lowered Himself
to the side of our poor father Adam,
and descended and visited him in the tomb
and restored him to his former glory.
Thanksgiving to the Hidden Father
who sent Him to give us life.
And a shout of joy to the Holy Spirit
who sang secret things through the prophets
who on earth announced His death
and in Sheol offered adorations to His honour.
And on us graciousness and compassion. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Praise

At this time of morning, we confess You and we adore you…
As at the beginning of this Service, p. 593

Service of the Sixth Hour

Doxology Glory be to the Father and to the Son…p.1

Praise

At midday we confess You and we adore You
Christ who saved us by Your passion and Your humiliation. *3 times*

Praise to You, our Lord,
All honour to Your Father.
Adoration and exaltation to Your Holy Spirit
And on us, sinners, graciousness and compassion.

May the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem be opened
That our prayers may enter into Your presence, O Christ
Our Father in heaven…

Psalm 51 Be gracious to us, O God…*as on* p.405

RESPONSE

Christ God who descended into Sheol
and who sprinkled there the dew of the new life,
and the bones of the departed exulted,
we have come into Your presence, be gracious to all.

Christ God who entered the house of the dead
and comforted the just who were lying there,
who had been waiting to see You,
we have come into Your presence, be gracious to all.

Christ God who as a son of man
died in the flesh for our sake
and who slew Death by Your death,
we have come into Your presence, be gracious to all.

Christ God who out of love
descended to the tomb for the sake of Adam,
to set him free from his enslavement.
we have come into Your presence, be gracious to all.

You who by Your death give life to sinners
And hold out hope and the resurrection
for our race of beings,
we have come into Your presence, be gracious to all.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord… compassionate Lord, we praise…

Praise… to the Living One from whose death life burst forth….
As at the Night Vigil, Second Watch, p.583

Hymn

O garden, who would be able to make a fitting elegy
upon the tragedy of the tree of life?
In this garden full of bliss, a Winged Creature
was posted to guard the way to the tree,
the tree of life under which makes us to recline
He who with His fruits makes to abound those who are in need.

Adam buried his soul himself in the garden,
among the trees, away from his Lord.
Our Lord lay His body in the garden
for three days in the tomb.
When he was alive Adam went into hiding in the garden.
At His death our Lord walked into Sheol.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy spirit.

Had You not walked into Sheol alone,
in the form of a dead,
Your Resurrection would not have come
to save many from perdition.
They laid You in the tomb, like a grain of wheat
that yields a hundredfold, and You are glorified infinitely.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

There was no loss of human life for Adam
in the garden, among the trees.
And Christ's self-existent life was not lost
when He breathed His last on the summit of the tree.
Adam hid from the Lord in the garden when he was alive,
our Lord was buried in the garden although He was alive.

Verses for the passion
Blessed are You, Living One, who died because You willed,
and gave life to Adam who died through sin.

Blessed are You, Living One, who descended into sheol.
Blessed are You, Holy One, who did not suffer corruption.

The Holy Church rejoices and exults with all the nations
which have come to her, and she is moved to praise You
through their mouths, O son, who by Your death delivered Adam
and brought him back and set him up in Paradise.

The mysteries and the symbols of the Uniquely-Beloved Son of God
are accomplished today, and the Holy Church asks from Him
to accept all the labours and services which her children
have offered for the celebration of His Passion.

Acclamations of praise ascend to You, our Lord, from all mouths.
from Your creatures, the just with their symbols,
the prophets with their mysteries, the fathers with their parables.
From all mouths, to You be praise.

Today all the children of the Church rejoice in the uttermost parts
of the habitable world, for the light of the King who was slain
shines forth from within the tomb and makes them to exult.
Beloved, let us keep festival for this day of the Light.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Blessed are You, Christ, the Key that threw Sheol open,
and who will come to open it again on the day of the resurrection.

Glory to You who raised the dead from their tombs and who will clothe them anew with jewels of glory on the day of the resurrection.

Death swallowed You up like the great fish that swallowed Jonah, and as You did not decay, she let You ascend, surrendering You after three days when You had made life known in Sheol for three days. And by Your Resurrection You ripped it open and went forth mightily.

You dived and lay down in the great cavern of Sheol.
You drew Adam out, whom it held in the mouth, a deadly stranglehold.
You sought him, a pearl buried in the filth of the dead,
who had fallen away from you. You carried him
and made him ascend to the Father.

Out of the Devourer came that which had been devoured,
without corruption, the sweet came out of the bitter, as it is written.
He illustrated the riddle of Samson the Hebrew.
Death is bitter but Christ is sweet for those who love Him.

Thanksgiving to the Good One who left the glory of the Watchers
in heaven and visited Adam in his wretchedness, among the dead.
Let praise resound from the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.
Lord who came to give life to Your image, to You be glory.

Concluding Praise

At midday we confess You and we adore You…
As at the beginning, p. 605

Service of Mutual Forgiveness

Celebrated at the Ninth Hour on Saturday of the Good Tidings.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

And on us, weak and sinful servants,
Mercy and compassion in both worlds, for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer

May Your peace, Lord, and Your tranquility, and the forgiving love of Your Godhead dwell in our hearts at all times. Bind us to You with it, unceasingly, and guide us with it, indissolubly, that we may praise You constantly and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 Be gracious to us, O God....*As on* p. 405

RESPONSE
We have sinned against You, have compassion on sinners .
Receive our prayers and forgive our transgressions.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to all.

We have committed a multitude of sins and offences,
and on account of this we call out to You.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to all.

At which door shall we knock if not at Yours,
our Lord, the All Compassionate One?
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to all.

Like the sinful woman we cry out to You.
and like the publican we make supplication from the heart.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to all.

Fill our hearts with that love which does away with anger,
and with all jealousy, all divisions and rivalries.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to all.

Christ who sacrificed Yourself
on the summit of the cross for the sake of sinners,
You are the Lord of all, be gracious to all.

Christ who when You entered the upper room
rejoiced Your disciples by Your glorious greeting of peace,
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to all.

Let us offer praise to the Father,
and adoration to the Son and the Holy spirit.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to all.

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord....Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Just One who endured our wickedness, to the Long-suffering One who bears our reproaches, to the Mighty One who deals gently with us, to the Lord who does not show anger at our evil deeds, to the Wise Physician who binds up our wounds in His compassion and heals even the marks of our sores and who does not turn His face from our weakness and our prayers, but inclines Himself to the cry of our supplications. Him we pray and beseech that He may have mercy on us all, and let His right hand overshadow us, at this time of our celebration of reconciliation by mutual forgiveness, and at all times....

In your compassion, Lord, our Lord, hear the prayers and supplications of us sinners, Your servants, who at this time present before You this incense with the desire of drawing upon Your inexhaustible mercy. Because we have angered You by our deeds and actions, we turn and repent and knock at Your door. We beseech Your gentleness that You will not deal with us according to our pride and stubbornness. Do not disown us, O God, because we have taken refuge in You. Do not put us to shame, O compassionate One, because in You is our hope. Do not cast us away from Your presence for it is You who created us and who fashioned us in your image and likeness. Do not reject Your servants for whom You endured Your Life-giving passion and death On the cross. And do not let Your grace disregard us who have been mingled with Your body and Your blood. And grant that sinners may

be encouraged and not be cut off from hope in their lives, for it is You who said, " Even if your sins are scarlet, you shall be made white as snow. If you turn to Me, I will heal your wounds".

So now, Lord, that we have turned to You, do not withhold Your mercy from us. Do not deliver us into the hands of the Evil One who is our enemy and who strives to make us turn away from our sweet hope in You. You know that if You leave us to be tried by his attacks, we shall easily fall, for among all human beings none is raised above the stains and impurities of sin. But as God who takes pleasure in the life of all and who receives the repentance of every man, receive us and give us joy by the heavenly blessings which endure for ever, because Yours is the power and the kingdom. And to You we offer praise and thanksgiving, and to your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

O love, how gentle you are! Like a tree of blessings,
a tree by which peace abounds everywhere.
With you, our Lord came to the dwelling of Abraham.
With you the priests enter the sanctuary.
With you Paul cried out, " Nothing can separate us from Your love,
Lord, neither tribulations, nor floggings, nor distress".
Halleluia, blessed are You who gave it to us.

"Seventy times seven", said the Son of God to Us,
"You must forgive your brother who sins against you".
He reminds us also that whenever there is transgression
we need to seek reconciliation. "Go to your brother's house,
show him your love, and you two, together ,cry out to Him,
"Praise to You, Lord, halleluia, by night and by day".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Paul wrote about that love without which there is no good.
Blessed is he in whom it is kindled, he will see the Lord.
With love Moses saw the Lord on the summit of the mountain

and the martyrs saw Him in the court of judgment.
With love the Church saw Him on the summit of the Cross.
Behold, she sings praise to Him, by night and by day,
halleluia, halleluia.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

By fasting, brother, we have put on a strong armour.
By it we have conquered and we are perfected in the Lord.
By it we have waged battle with the Adversary.
By it Moses' face shone on Mount Sinai.
By it Elijah was taken upon the chariot of fire.
By it the just became glorious and the martyrs were crowned.

May peace be strengthened by our love
and tranquillity be our stronghold.
O God full of graciousness, hear the sinners who call to You
Our Lord, we acknowledge our sins
and we knock at the door of Your mercy.
Declare to us that our debts are remitted,
from Your inexhaustible treasury.

Prayer for the burning of incense
Lord, make our hearts abodes of peace
and our minds harbours of tranquility.
Sow in our souls true love for You and for one another
and root deeply within us friendship and unity,
and concord with reverence,
that we may give peace to each other sincerely
and receive it beautifully.

And when we give peace to each other,
may Your will be pleased, as with a chosen incense
of sweet odour and spiritual fragrance,
You who delight in all peace and rejoice in tranquility.
To You belongs glory and honour, and to Your Father
and to the Life-giving and Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We call upon You, Lord, our Lord, come to our help,
hear our supplication and be gracious to all.

Lord, our Lord, Lord of the Wakeful Ones and the angels,
hear our supplication and be gracious to the whole world.

Those who are carried away by anger have no peace.
Everyday they have to seek reconciliation with the Lord
who forgives our anger. Let no one say, "You are the offender,
it is for you to come to me." Even leave your gift
before the altar, and first reconciliation with your brother.

Let us love each other as members of one body.
One is the head of the whole body, the Lord Jesus.
He who shows anger to his brother does not love Him.
he hates the Lord. He who loves his brother is free from bondage.

You who are carried away by anger, look to God that you may become
like Him, and make peace with your neighbour wisely.
Root out from your heart all grudge, jealousy and all ill-feelings,
and the Lord of love will abide in You as He dwells in His Kingdom.

Glory to the Father who pacifies those who are angry.
Adoration to the Son who reconciles the worlds by His Cross.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who forgives the debts of all penitents.
And on us graciousness, at all times. Amen. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

1 Jn 4:7-21 Anyone who says, "I love God" and yet hates his brother is a liar…
1 Co 13:4-10 Love is patient and kind …never jealous…

Acclamations before the Gospel
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Blessed is the man whose offence is forgiven,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia,
and whose sin is remitted.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt	18: 1-4	Who is the greatest?
	12-14	The God Shepherd's love for the lost sheep.
	23-35	The wickedness of the unforgiving brother.

Celebrant's exhortation

This is the conclusion of the Great Fast and of the celebration of the Life-giving Passion, our ship reaching the harbour. If any one of us has something against his brother, if in our heart there is some grudge against our brother, if we have turned our back after putting the hand to the plough, the Resurrection will be of no avail to us and of no good. When Lot's wife was fleeing from Sodom, the abode of sin, she was not steadfast in her journeying, she looked back and was changed into a pillar of salt. But those who persevered without turning right or left were saved.

Triple call to forgiveness with prostrations

CELEBRANT: Beloved, I call upon you. In the name of Christ pardon me. I have sinned against you. With the love of a father and in the unity of spirit and heart , I call upon you, falling on my knees before you.

CONGREGATION: Bless us, Lord, and forgive us.

CELEBRANT: I supplicate and request from your true love, brethren and beloved, let us be at peace with one another, so that God may be at peace with us. In the presence of the Blessed and Holy Trinity, I fall upon my face.

CONGREGATON: Bless us, Lord, and forgive us.

CELEBRANT: Before you all, with a contrite heart and a broken spirit I appeal to your love. I cry to you with a loud voice. Come, brethren, let us be at peace with one another. May each one of us forgive his brothers' failings and offences. Let us be at peace with one another so that God may be at peace with all of us and forgive our debts and our sins. As He said, if you remit one another your sins and debts, they will be remitted to you by Him. May the Lord be forgiveness of my sins and your sins.

CONGREGATION: Bless us, Lord, and forgive us.

Concluding exhortation

Those who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak to carry their burdens. We should be on our guard against seeking to please ourselves. Instead, each one of us should please his brother for his own good, not destroy him, but rather build him up in the faith. For Christ did not seek to please Himself. Instead, as the Scripture says of Him: " The reproaches against you have fallen on me". Without forgiveness there is no hope for us. And may God, the source of patience and forgiveness, enable us to live in harmony, by following the example of Christ Jesus, so that all of us together, with one voice, may praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

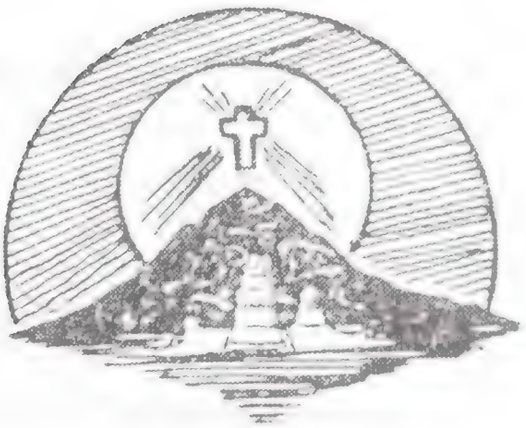
Blessing

May the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you all!

May God bless and pardon all who have been present with us at this service of mutual forgiveness!

May the Lord pardon the faithful departed!

And may our poor prayers be heard
and accepted before Your altar on high,
Father, Son and Holy spirit,
now and always and for ever. Amen.



The Great Feast of the Resurrection
Evening Service

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father and to the Son…p.1

Opening Prayer

When we celebrate the festivals of the economy of Your coming in the flesh, Lord, we put our trust in Your graciousness, for in each feast You provide Your creation with the help it needs. And now we stand upright, with heals raised, to celebrate this day of Your Resurrection, and to offer glory to You, our Lord, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 68:1-7 *As here below*

When God arises, halleluiah
His foes scatter, His enemies flee before Him.

Like drifting smoke they are driven, halleluia,
like melting wax before the fire.

At the sight of God the are driven, halleluia,
but the just rejoice, they gain strength in His presence.

They rejoice and delight exceedingly, halleluia,
they sing to God and praise His Name.

They praise Him who rides on the sun to its setting, halleluia,
the Lord is His Name.

They gain strength in His presence, halleluia,
the Father of the fatherless and the defender of the widows.

God is in His holy habitation, halleluia,
God makes to dwell the solitary in His house.

He makes the prisoners to go out with earnestness, halleluia,
but the wicked shall find their graves in the wastelands.

Glory be to the Father… From age to age…

RESPONSE
An angel of light and exultation rolls the stone from the tomb
and announces to the women news of great joy,
"He is risen from the tomb, the Immortal One".

The angel says to the women who are bringing sweet spices,
"Why do you seek the Living One among the dead?
He is risen from the tomb, the Immortal One".

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us ….page 5

RESPONSE
All the prophecies come to fulfillment,
on the day when the creation sings, "Christ is risen".
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

At the Resurrection of the Uniquely-Beloved Son
the Holy Church is filled with light and life truly divine.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

Today Simon Peter and John run to the tomb
they sing praise to Christ who is risen.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

Fathers and all just men of ancient times,
the day which you awaited is come, Christ is risen.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

We sing glory to the Father, and adoration to the Son,
and we give thanks to the Holy Spirit, one Godhead.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord… Compassionate Lord, we praise….

Praise… to that High Power who is the strong arm of His Father, who by His Glorious Resurrection has renewed the Creation, and by the joy of His new life has changed our sorrow into gladness. Him we beg and beseech that He may strengthen us by His help, at this time of evening…

Who would be worthy to praise You, Lord, on this Glorious and Holy Feast of the Great Sunday of Your Resurrection from the dead? Yet according to the psalms of David the priest, we say, "This is the day which the Lord has made. Come, let us exult and rejoice in it". This is the day which has not its like before, and afterwards there shall be none to resemble it. This is the Great Feast, the crown and glory of all other festivals. On this loved day our minds leap and our hearts exult. And with great joy we say: "Come in peace, New Day, who by Your power have brought to naught the ancient night. Come in peace, Firstborn, by whom the days of the two worlds are adorned with beauty. Come in peace, Flower of the Resurrection, by whom Death which destroyed Adam has been defeated and put to death. Come in peace, Holy Sunday of the Resurrection which consoles the sad and gives strength to the weak. Come in peace, Sunday of the Resurrection which gives joy to the sorrowful and gathers together those who were scattered. Come in peace, Bright Morning, which no setting shall veil, New Day which has no evening. Today You put an end to suffering and make creatures of earth like the creatures of heaven. Yesterday the Shepherd was struck and the sheep were scattered, and today they gather together with joy and exaltation. Yesterday Judas received the thirty pieces of silver and Caiaphas gave orders and had them obeyed, Annas accused. The elders of the priests made much ado. The scribes spread terror. Pilate sat in judgment and the Lord stood before him. Today Caiaphas is confounded . Annas is ridiculed and Judas has hanged himself and thrown away the thirty pieces of silver. The scribes are cowed. The elders of the priests are cast down. The Pharisees are covered with shame and accuse one another of having committed a fault. Today the way to the tomb resounds with good tidings echoed on Golgotha still wrapped in grief. Today the angels hasten to the tomb, roll away the stone and sit upon it Today the throne of Death is overthrown and her crown is taken away.

Today with Paul the Divine Teacher we cry and say: "Yesterday I was crucified with Christ that today I may be glorified with Him. I have been laid in the tomb with Him that today I may rise with Him". We had need that God should die in the flesh that we might die with Him, that we might be buried with Him, that we might rise with Him. And we will praise Him and His Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday Mary hastens to the tomb of the Uniquely- Beloved Son.
While weeping and shedding abundant tears over the Firstborn killed
by the wicked, she finds the tomb open and an angel sitting by the side.
He opens His mouth of fire and says joyously to the blessed one,
"The Son of the King has risen and is seated at the right hand".
The angels and the spirits on high sing, "Holy are You!"
to God who is risen from the grave.

Today the whole Creation rejoices and is glad and sings praise.
He is risen and is gone forth from the tomb full of glory,
the Son of God who is above all powers and potentates.
The Holy Church of believers contemplates Him on the altar
where He becomes food and is sacrificed,
and His blood is mixed for the pardon of sins.
And every day we take our delight in Him,
that we may rejoice with Him in the Heavenly Kingdom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Go up the high mountains, O Church, and sing praise to God
who has come forth from the tomb and rejoices heaven and earth.
David, the son of Jesse, contemplated Him in his psalms and said,
"God has risen in glory, the Lord at the sound of the trumpet."
You are blessed! And happy are your children who have believed
in the Son of God who died upon the Cross and was buried
and is risen with glory and his delivered us from sin.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Rejoice, exult and take your delight in Him, Holy Church of believers.
Sing praise to the Only Son who suffered for you and tasted death
of His own will, and descended to announce the Good Tidings to the dead.
He has been raised from within the tomb and its risen with glory, and by His
Resurrection He gives Joy to heaven and earth and all that they contain.
Blessed is He who gives peace to His creatures
and makes them return from deceit and untruth to the truth.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
High Priest Supreme and Sublime Mediator,
By the incense of Your Cross You crucified sin
And by the fragrance of Your Divinity You slew Death the Killer,
And gave joy to the heights and the depths.

Now, Lord, give us joy by the sweet odour of this incense
which we offer before You to Your all-fragrant divine love,
on the day of Your Resurrection from among the dead.
And make us worthy to run in the spirit to Your tomb like the apostles,
and to believe in You in our hearts like the women disciples,
and we will offer praise to You with tongues unloosed.

Second Hymn
On Sunday the angels descend from the heights
and encircle the holy tomb in which rests the Lord of all.
They say to the women disciples who had come to embalm His body,
"He is not here. He is risen with glory without corruption.
Go, tell His apostles that He goes before them into Galilee".

Heaven and earth clap their hands with hosannas
and the Church rejoices with her children
and makes a joyful noise with songs of praise to God
who is risen with glory from the house of the dead.
He led away those whom Death and Satan had brought into captivity,
beginning with Adam, and made them who were captives,
rejoice with the great hope of the Resurrection.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Heaven and earth rejoice today and all that they contain.
The wicked who hanged God on the Cross are confounded,
for he is risen with glory and has come forth from the tomb.
And on the day of His Resurrection He rejoices
the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.
and delivers Adam and his children from greedy Death.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The whole habitable earth, to its utmost bounds, rejoices for the Son,
of the King who resurrected and rose with glory from the tomb,
to deliver Adam and his children from the Evil One and Death.
he promises the Holy Church: "You shall be where I am ."
And He raises her on high, and makes her sit
at the right hand of Him who sent Him.

May the dew of life sent by the Father
which He sprinkled on the children in the furnace of Babylon,
be shed on the dead who lie in the darkness of Sheol.
May the sins of His servants who rest in His hope be pardoned
and may they have an inheritance in the kingdom,
which does not pass and will not be destroyed.

Supplication song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Resurrection has shone forth. A sign is given to the Powers
to prepare themselves to appear on earth in their white garments,
for the Slain Bridegroom calls His ministers from the heavens
and they hasten to Him, to see His tomb, the new bridal chamber.

The guards are struck with fear by the trembling of the earth.
An angel approaches and rolls away the stone to show them
that He has truly gone forth, while the tomb remained sealed.
A disturbing story, yet the sheer truth.

The hours which the night had stolen from the day,
when at noon the whole Creation was covered with darkness,
she gives back when the light shines in the middle of the night .
When Christ died in the middle of the day night reigned
but when He rose again in the night the day appeared.

Glory to the Father who raised up His Son with great power.
Adoration to the Son who rose with glory from the tomb.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who is celebrated in the house of the dead.
O Trinity, to You be praise from all mouths.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
The angel said to the women, halleluia
The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed, halleluia, halleluia

Praise, honor and exaltation we offer to the Joyous One,
mighty and glorious and of powerful strength,
for the liberation and victory given to His people.

As Miriam sang on the tambourine and the tumbrel
to God the Lord,
sing, sing, sing, and sing to Him,
God the Strong who is risen from the tomb
with power and might.

Praise, praise, praise, praise and praise Him,
God the Mighty who is risen from the tomb
with power and might.

Chant, chant, chant, chant and chant to Him
the Powerful God who is risen from the tomb
with power and might.

Because He is worthy of praise.

Mt 28:1-10 The angel's announcement of the Resurrection.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world".

Christ our God who are the Firstborn from among the dead and the Head of all who rest, since the people of ancient times who were dead through sin arose with You, make now the whole Creation share in Your Resurrection and in the new life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your death bound the strong one who had bound us, Satan, and by Your Resurrection laid aside Your garments, that is the weakness of the race of Adam, clothe us with the Garment of Divinity, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ who when You conquered death opened to us the gates of life, in Your goodness raise us up now with You from the death of sin, and make us enter with You in Your inheritance, in the light of the new life, as we celebrate Your Resurrection, we beseech You and we will say three times: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father and to the Son...p.1

Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us Lord, from our sleep....p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...p.9

RESPONSE

With those on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You, as we say,
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

With and winged Creatures we bless You, with the Fiery Ones
we hallow Your Name, O Lover of Humankind, with the angels.
we bow to You in adoration. Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

Mary and her companions met at Your tomb, O Creator of life,
and there they saw a Watcher who said to them,
"Christ is risen with glory from the house of the dead".

The dead in the tombs await the day of Your manifestation,
O Lover of Humankind, sprinkle on their faces the dew of Your mercy,
that by You they may rise from their graves and inherit life.

Glory, honor, adoration and highest exaltation may we be worthy
to offer to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
one true God, to Him be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 97 (96) The Lord reigns, let earth rejoice…

RESPONSE
Come, all you peoples, let us praise the Son of God
who rose from the house of the dead
and by His Passion and Crucifixion slew the killer.
Behold, all nations, and races sing glory to Him.

How great and illustratious this day on which the Lord
is risen with glory, and by His Resurrection
rejoices and gladdens heaven and earth, and all that is them!
And now the heavenly ones and the earthly ones offer glory to Him.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer to the Lord…	Compassionate Lord, we praise…

Praise… to the One Holy Father, the One Holy Son, the One Holy spirit, the Father who is not begotten but begets, the Son who is begotten and does not beget, the Spirit who proceeds from the Father and receives from the Son. To Him belongs adoration and submission and subjection from all creatures, in heaven and on earth, and praise from all tongues, at this time of the night vigil….

We adore and confess your Being, O our God, who made us in Your image. We exalt You, son, the Only- Begotten, who by Your glorious death reconciled us. We believe in You, vivifying fruit of the Hidden Father, who by Your Life-giving death bestowed on us immortality. You, Light Incomprehensible, were buried in a human burial. By Your voice You made to rise those who were buried in the graves from of old, when You accomplished the visitation of the dead in Sheol. By Your Resurrection You saved those who were lying in the dust. You made them to rise and You led them to life. You loosed and removed the grasp of the devil and all his powers. You made to pass the first sorrow which yesterday was spread on all the peoples. You brought together to worship You those who had been led into rebellion. The day before yesterday, King, You were crucified and sunk in sufferings, today You are triumphant in the victory of Your Glorious Resurrection. The day before yesterday Your side was pierced with a spear, today from Your

side flows baptism for the forgiveness of sins. The day before yesterday His head was crowned with a crown of thorns by insulting soldiers, but today the Church is adorned with incorruptibility. Today angels in their white garments encircle the holy sepulchre. Today the women leap with joy when they announce to the disciples the Good News of the Resurrection. Today Simon and John enter the sepulchre of the Son, their Master and Lord, and do not find there anything except the shroud and the cloth for His head on one side. Today Adam, the head of our race, adores and praises You because by the resurrection of his Lord from the grave, he earns a new life and returns to his heavenly inheritance.

Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our God, by Your goodness and Your tender love, let our image which we are, be refashioned by You, Skilful Maker, and we will praise the bountiful sea Of Your compassion, Lord of the two worlds, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Lord, our Lord, on the blessed day of Your Resurrection
Your Church stands in prayer asking You with supplication
To show Your love to her children who feel like lambs
in the midst of wolves seeking to devour the innocent.
They raise their eyes they see Your salvation.

Lord, our Lord, the Church which You delivered by Your blood
Rejoices in Your Life-giving Resurrection and takes pride in You.
And raising her head towards Your Cross she takes refuge in it.
The Cross is for her a wall of protection against the snares
of the Evil One and the hatred of those who associate with him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday which is the greatest of days, the eighth day
And the consummation of time, we sing praise of the Firstborn
who has neither beginning nor end.
Glory to Him who descended and visited the dead
and promised them the for first fruits of life.

From age to age and for ever. Amen

On Sunday the Holy Church rejoices, exults and sings praise
to her Spouse who is risen, and by His Resurrection gladdens
heaven and earth, and is raised to heaven victoriously.

Praise to Him who rose with glory from the tomb.
And, behold, He is exalted on a glorious throne.

Gn 1:1-31 God the Creator
2: 1-3

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place... p.11

Psalm 99 (98) The Lord reigns the people tremble....

RESPONSE
O joyful Passover manifested today from the tomb.
O Glorious Victim, by Your victory Death is trampled under foot.

Let us he be glad and offer praise, exult and shout
And cry out to all creatures: "Rejoice and offer praise with us".

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to You. Brightness of the Eternal Father, Power of the First Being, Word whose thought is inscrutable, who by Your humiliation exalt the humble, and by Your Passion give life to those who are subject to passion, and by Your Resurrection raise up the fallen. To You belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God who by Your Resurrection give joy to those in heaven and those on earth...on the first day of the week which is the beginning of days , when by the grace of the Creator, this Creation of ours took its beginning ,and when also by Your Resurrection You gave joy to those in heaven and those on earth, on this first day, Sunday, was created the light and the darkness was dispelled, so that everything might come into existence and receive all fair from and comely adornment. On this Sunday also a renewal

came to our Creation, when by the second birth of baptism a new creature was created and the darkness of ignorance was dispelled and passed from us, as we were enlightened by the light of the Holy Trinity, by the Lord of life, the Lord of glory by Him who died in the flesh and recovered life in the Spirit.

And now we beseech You, Christ our God, on this day of Your Resurrection which brings life and salvation, rejoice us with all Your spiritual gifts. Enlighten our minds with the glorious light which shone from Your tomb and make us bear for You the harvest of the Spirit: love, joy and peace, patience, goodness and truthfulness and self-restraint. Yes, like the women disciples who brought spices and ointments to embalm Your body, make us shine in all good conduct. May we be to You pure and holy garments, and as Joseph wrapped You in the shroud may we wrap You in our souls and place You in the cave of our hearts as in a new tomb, to rise with You and offer thanksgiving to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

God rose from the tomb with great power.
The prophet met Him and deeply perturbed asked Him,
"Why, Lord, is Your garment red? Why is Your side open?
Why are Your hands pierced ?"
"In Sheol I had to tread the winepress like a mighty man.
I was alone in the battle and I was spattered with blood,
halleluia, and I rose from the tomb."

"What are these wounds in Your hands?"
said the prophet when Christ came forth from the tomb.
"Why is Your face spattered with blood?
Why is Your garment stained red?"
"I had to tread the winepress alone", said the Lord,
"Not even one remained with Me. No one came to help Me.
Halleluia, they have not been able to help".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Today two angels descend from heaven on earth. Clothed in White,
They stand near the tomb and these creatures of fire and spirit tell us,
"Why are they in terror in the house of the dead?
A letter of recommendation is written for Adam and all his children.
God is reconciled with them. He has forgiven their transgressions.
halleluia, by the death of His Uniquely- Beloved Son.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The priests said to the guards, "Take this bribe and say
that His disciples have stolen Him away you did not notice.
If it comes to the ears of Pilate we will speak to him your favor".
He who is seated in heaven laughs at them and lets them make schemes.
Christ is risen from the tomb, putting the wicked to shame,
halleluiah, and truth has prevailed.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Ex 14 :13-14 God the Savior. The crossing of the Red Sea.
14 : 19-31

Gospel Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
When God arises His foes scatter.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
His enemies flee before Him.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Lk 24 : 1-12 The Angel's Announcement of the Resurrection.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place for....p.11

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed....
As on every Sunday, p.13

After the Third Watch the priests perform the Service of the Resurrection in the sanctuary, according to the Book of the Feasts. Meanwhile, before the triple announcement of the Lord's Resurrection two readings are read to the congregation:

Bar 3 : 9-14 True Knowledge and Wisdom of God.
32-37
4 : 1-4
Is 54 : 5-14 God's love and the New Jerusalem.

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the commission of Saints Halleluia, halleluia…
The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens…

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
"I have risen" says the Lord,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
And I set to work salvation openly,
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 20: 1-18 The Empty Tomb.

Supplications song Lord, be gracious to us help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us.
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On Sunday night, at the first rays of dawn,
the Good One rises and manifests Himself,
The Lord wakes up like one who sleeps,
like one who shakes off his wine.

He turns His face away. He turns away
and leaves behind those who crucified Him.
Fear takes hold of them.
In the world they are scattered, despised, rejected.

All at once He conquers death and regains life,
and ascends to Him who sent Him.
He leaves the dwelling prepared for Him by Joseph,
He does not accept the house of Ephraim.

Glory to You, Firstborn, Life-giver,
who rose from the tomb and give us life .
And to Your hidden Father, thanksgiving.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.
And on us graciousness and compassion, at all times. Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ , do not close the door of Your mercy....p.9

During the first preparatory service for Qurbana by the priests

Mi	7: 8-13	The Lord will give us light.
Is	57: 19-20	Peace to all, from far and from near.
	60: 17-22	Restoration of God's people prosperity, peace, light.

During the outdoor procession

I P	5 : 5-14	You will have to suffer only a little while.
Rm	16 : 24-27	Glory to Christ, revelation of God's Mystery.
Jn	13 : 34-35	The New commandment, love one another.
	14 : 27	Peace, " My own peace I give you".
	15 : 11-15	Joy, Friends not servants.
	17-19	May they all be one, Father, may they be one in us, as You are in Me and I am in You.

On Return to the Church, the Exaltation of the Cross and the Exchange of Peace.

Morning Service

As in volume I pp.237-251

Readings before Qurbana

Ezk	36 : 16-28	Israel's new life.
Ezk	37 : 1-15	The Quickening of the dry bones
Is	55 : 1- 13	A call to take God's food - His Covenant - His word..

Readings during Qurbana

Ac	2 : 22-42	Peter's proclamation of the Gospel
I Co	15 : 20-28	The goal of Christ's resurrection : God all in all.
Mk	16 : 1-8	The empty tomb and the angel's announcement of Christ's resurrection.

MARCH 25

The Annunciation to the Mother of God
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Doxology Glory be to the Father.....

Opening Prayer

Eternal Son, our God, Jesus Christ, who at the Annunciation of Gabriel, the head of the angels, came to dwell in the virginal womb of Mary, the Daughter of David, make us worthy and strengthen us that we may celebrate today with purity and joy the feast of Your Life-giving Annunciation. Come to dwell in our hearts as You dwelt in the Virgin who bore You. And may the fragrance of our faith be sweet to You and to all men. Gladden us with the joy of Your love as You rejoiced your Mother at the Annunciation of Your coming, and we will praise You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Triple Adoration

Come, let us bow down and adore Him.
Let us offer our adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Psalm 18 (17) : 1-20 I love You, Lord, my strength...

RESPONSE

Peace be with you, Mary, cries out today the whole Creation.
Peace be with you, cries out today Gabriel, the head of the angels.
Like him we also greet you with a joyous salutation of peace.
Peace be with you because it is through you
that the annunciation of salvation came to us.
Peace be with you because today your peace brings us great joy.

EVENING PRAYER

How joyful is the feast which we celebrate today! How glorious
This day when the Lord in His graciousness manifests Himself to us!
As true devotees, let us all alert and recollect our thoughts
with power to meditate on the Great Mystery which we celebrate
and say with earnestness: "Peace be with you, O full of grace!"

Evening Psalms We call upon you, Lord hear us....p.5

RESPONSE
The Wakeful One flies and descends to the Virgin Mary.
He announces to her : "From you comes forth the Savior.
Peace be with you, Mary. The Father has willed to choose you
to be the Mother of His Son who is save the whole Creation".

Gabriel the Wakeful One announces to the Virgin,
"You shall have a Son and He will save the world .
He will be like every other child, but He is the Eternal One".
All you nations, come, bow down to Him in adoration.

The Virgin replied to the angel: " How is it possible
that which you announce shall be accomplished?"
He replied to her, " The Holy Spirit shall come upon you
and the power of the Most High shall rest upon you".

Peace be with you, O Daughter of David,
Holy Mother full of beauty and sublime glory.
The seal of your virginity is intact, yet pure milk flows from you,
and you have a fair child whose name is Emmanuel, God-with-us!

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord....Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Uniquely-Beloved Son of the Father and Eternal Word, who at the announcement of Gabriel, the head of the angels, came to dwell in the Virgin, the daughter of David, and took flesh in her that He might blot out the sins of the race of Adam. Too Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening....

Praise and thanksgiving to You, Jesus Christ our God, who created man and woman in Your image and sealed them with the likeness of Your majesty. And when on account of their rebellion against your commandment they were exiled from their former inheritance, their cry entered into Your presence and in Your graciousness You heard their groaning. You willed to save and deliver them. And to raise them up their fall You inclined the heavens and descended on earth. While You did not cease to be God and departed not from the high and lofty throne of your Being, You entered into the womb of the Virgin. Your conception was announced by a Wakeful One . You gladdened the Virgin with the message of peace instead of the sentence of exile pronounced against Eve, our first mother. Gabriel cried out to her and said . " Peace be with you, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed among women" . And when by his message of peace he made clear that the ancient hedge of enmity which the Adversary had planted was removed, the Creation was filled with joy and clothed in endless gladness. And now we also answer with the sweet sound of the harp and exult with pleasant voices, and keep festival with beautiful steps of the dance and join with Gabriel, the head of the angels , saying with joy, "Peace be with you, full of grace, Mother of the Maker of the Universe, Blessed Ship by whose treasure the whole world is enriched. Beauteous Vine, in the wine of whose clusters the whole Creation takes its Pleasure". We, poor sinners, stand in awe and wonder and with joy of heart say that the Lord has revealed His love and redeemed the world.

Therefore we beseech you, that you will intercede for us pray to God who was born of you, that He will give us seasons of joy and years of blessings and times of gladness and rejoicing, and perfect us by the bonds of love for Him and for one another. May He prepare us for the feast of lights with those who were clothed with the seal of baptism, and by His command have followed Him in His Passover, that both here and there we may keep His festival and offer praise and thanksgiving to Him and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

He inclined the heavens and descended.
Leaving the ranks of those who are fire and spirit and the high place of His existence, the Word of God descended to rest in a womb of flesh.

He appeared on earth and illumined the ends of the world by His birth.
On the day of His Annunciation He rejoices angels and humans. Praise
to His love who made Him lower His Majesty and humble Himself
and become and because of Adam, to make him inherit
the Kingdom on high.

He is the Lord our God.
The Lord who fills all things has enclosed His Majesty in the womb.
How can a sea of fire flow within the space of a simple vessel?
It can. Truly, it was thus that the Word rested in the womb.
the light that spreads all over the earth confined itself to this vessel.
In His graciousness the Lord lowered His Greatness.
He chose Mary, came to rest in her and came forth from her
to deliver us from perdition.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All the generations who understand how precious is this treasure
proclaim our generation blessed, to whom it was given.
They hoped to see it but did not obtain it except in their longing.
It passed by the generations like a sealed treasure and left them
wondering when this treasure would be opened.
Saints, prophets and kings, all of them desired to touch it.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The heights and depths and all that they contain clap their hands
with joy, and sing hymns of praise to the Uniquely-Beloved Son of God,
who left the back of the Winged Creatures and chose the virginal
womb of Mary who carried Him and made known His glory.
Without leaving His Father He gave testimony to His Mystery.
He who in His own person is without limit became an infant of His
own will and He exalts His Churches in the four quarters of the earth.

Do you, Savior, give them repose
May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
O Fair Lily, pure and sweet smelling,
your fragrance has spread all over the world
and your ravishing beauty has led captive
all generations of believers and devotees.

Pray to your Son who came forth from your womb,
O Full of Grace, that He will receive this incense
which we offer from our hands on your festival
and by it wipe away our offences and give rest
to all who followed your Son in His Passover.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who sent Your peace to the blessed one,
make Your peace dwell in Your Churches and in the whole Creation.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The angel descended when Mary was at prayer
and gave her the peace sent from God Most High.
"Peace be with you who are filled with grace from God.
The Lord is with you, Glorious Virgin, the Lord is with you,
Blessed among women, whom all proclaim blessed".

On hearing this Mary asked herself what might be the meaning of such
an unusual salutation. The wakeful one said, " Do not fear, Fair One,
the Lord is pleased with you and has chosen you
to be the Mother of His Son. You shall conceive in all holiness
and you shall bring forth to the world the King whose reign has no end."

Mary replied, "How shall that which you say come to pass?
Since man has never known me, how shall I carry fruit?
You announce a son to me but I know not marriage.
I hear you speak of a child but I have no partner."
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you" replied the wakeful one. "The power
of the Most High shall dwell in you and you shall conceive."

Glory to the Father who sent the Wakeful One to announce to Mary.
Adoration to the Son who came forth from her in holiness.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who made her a temple and rested upon her.
Blessed is the Mystery of the Three. To Him be praise!

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He descended like the dew on the fleece,
like the rain descends on the earth.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
As the rain comes down from heaven
watering the earth to make it bear fruit,
The Word of God took flesh from the Virgin Mary.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Luke 1:26-38 The Annunciation to Mary.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness, "Hear, us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world".

Christ our God who today looked on the lowliness of Your servant Mary, and took flesh from her when she received Your word, may we also always receive Your word with and keep it like her, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who today flesh from her who offered herself to Your Father as the servant of God, who, here on earth, were known Yourself as the Servant of the Lord, impress on Your Churches that they are called not to dominate, but like You to enlighten and serve Your people, and to rule by love, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who marked the beginnings of our salvation with wonders, endow us Your followers with spiritual insight to recognize Your presence in our brothers and sisters as well as in the events of daily life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N... Pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our Fathers His Beatitude Moran Mor N.....our Catholicos, N....our Metropolitan Archbishop, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this, our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Word of God who sent the angel Gabriel with the power of Your Spirit to announce to the Virgin Mary that You would take flesh from her, bring now Your Incarnation to fulfillment in the Churches and among the nations and peoples, to transcend their differences, and like Mary through humility, sincerity and good will with determination, to find peace and unity in You, Savior of the World, and we will cry and say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.Lord have mercey.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

Doxology Glory be to the Father… p.1
Trisagion Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord ...p.1

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep…p.9

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve…p.9

RESPONSE
With those from on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we You, as we say,
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures".

With the Winged Creatures we bless You.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, O Lover of Humankind.
With the angels we bow to You in adoration.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

The angel descended from the ranks of the Fiery Ones
and gave the greeting of peace to the Holy Virgin,
the daughter of the Hebrews, and said,
"From you shall come forth the Savior of all creatures".

The Self- existent who rested in the womb
of a daughter of man, without marriage,
removed the snares of the Serpent and saved
Adam and Eve and their children from deception.

It is good to offer glory, honour, adoration and exaltation,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 8 How great is Your Name, O Lord our God…

RESPONSE
O Lord, how glorious is Your Name throughout the earth!
You made man little less than God,
crowning him with glory and honour,
making him steward of the Creation.

To You be praise, to You thanksgiving,
O Adorable Father from everlasting, who in old times
spoke with our fathers through the prophets and later
spoke with us through Your Son, the Beloved.

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord… Compassionate Lord, we praise….

Praise … to the One God who is revealed in unity and believed in Trinity, Being on High who is known in three persons and praised in one power, the One Hidden Father who sent the new tidings to Nazareth, the One Adorable Son who dwelt in the Virgin and confirmed the tidings, the One Holy Spirit who by His descent accomplished the wonder. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil…

Praise to You, Exalted and Lofty One, who came from the high and hidden dwelling of the Father to dwell in the womb of the humble Virgin. Heavenly One who when You willed to become an earthly one made a sign with Your Father secretly and stirred the angel Gabriel and sent him to go before You with power that he might announce to the Virgin concerning Your glorious conception. Glorious One who by the whisper of Your gentle command sent the Fiery One gladly to meet the pure handmaid. Heavenly Peace who commanded the Wakeful One to pass on peace to the humble Mary. Hidden One who by the Holy Spirit hallowed the dwelling place of the glorious womb of the Holy Virgin before Your wondrous descent. Word eternal who entered by the ear of the maiden and healed the ancient wound of the human family.

Therefore, O Word Exalted, who for our sake were pleased to take flesh from the Holy Virgin, we offer prayers and earnest supplications that on this day of the Annunciation of Your wondrous conception, You will bestow on us mercy and compassion and all spiritual gifts, and an abundance of good things, that we may offer praise and thanksgiving to You, and through You, to Your Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Lord, our Lord, when Your Godhead was moved
to descend and to be clothed with our manhood,
Gabriel flew with the peace of His Lord and sowed it
in the ear of Mary, saying to her, "Peace be with you, Mary,
blessed are you among women. The Lord is with you.
From you shall come forth the Savior of the Creation".

Mary said to Gabriel, "How can this be for I know not a man?
When, where and how was a virgin known to have given birth?"
The Wakeful One replied: "The Holy Spirit will come on you,
and the power from on high will rest in your womb.
From you shall come forth the Ancient of Days
who will restore to life Adam worn out by corruption".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The ark which Moses built on Sinai,
in which he placed the tablets of the Law,
represented you, Mary, as a figure.
Your virginity was preserved when the Giver of the Law
dwelt in your womb, God made man, who came forth you,
and made His peace reign up to the ends of the earth.

From age to age for ever, Amen.

The closed cell sealed with the seal of the king,
in which dwelt Daniel the just,
was a sign of you, Mary, who preserved your virginity

when the Savior of the Creation came forth from you.
blessed is He who has come and is to come,
halleluia, halleluia, Son of God, offspring of the Virgin.

MEDIATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place....p.11

Psalm 9:1-15 I will praise You, Lord, with all my heart ....

RESPONSE
We praise You, O Lord, with all our heart.
We recite Your marvels one by one.
We rejoice and exult in You.
We sing praise to Your Name, Most High.

You humbled Yourself, You who are on high with the Father,
and who are without beginning,
appearing like a mortal one.
Glory to You for Your abasement.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...	Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise .. to the King on high who sent a message of peace to the Virgin, and hallowed her by the Holy Spirit and made her a sanctuary for His dwelling, to Him for His willing emptying of Himself and His humility beyond telling, we offer praise, at this time of the night vigil...

Sun of Righteousness and Savior of all, Christ our God, You were born of the Father without time and without beginning. Of Your own will and that of the Holy Spirit You descended from the lofty height of Your Majesty and rested and dwelt in the Holy Virgin Mary. We worship and we give thanks, and with David the prophet we say: "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord, because He has done wonderful things". Wonderful was it in truth

that God should descend from heaven for the salvation of our race, the human family. And when He saw it fallen into sin, should send His message to the Holy Virgin Mary to announce Your glorious conception. And when the angel saw her he cried with a loud voice and said: "Peace be with you, full of grace, the Lord is with You, blessed among women. Peace be with you, full of grace, living temple of the Word of God. Peace be with you, full of grace, dwelling place of the divine fire. Peace be with you, full of grace, imperishable storehouse of the Heavenly Bread. Peace be with you, full of grace, Mother of the Ancient of Days who was pleased to become an infant in your womb.

Therefore we also who believe declare you blessed while we beg and beseech you to intercede for us with God who was born of you, that He may shed His mercy and compassion upon us and make us worthy by His grace to give thanks for His salvation and to praise Him and His Father and His Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On the day of the Annunciation of Your conception
from the Virgin Mary, O Word of God, His Uniquely-Blessed Son,
the Wakeful Ones on high marvel because it pleased You
to become man to revive Adam worn out by corruption.

The angel Gabriel descended carrying his message
And offered peace to the Virgin Mary, saying to her,
"The Lord is with you, from you shall come forth
the Beloved Son of the Exalted One".

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Virgin told the angel, "What do you say?
And who sent you to me, such a poor person?
Who is your Lord? He has never seen me and does not know me.
And what you say, how is it possible?"

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The angel stooped to Mary and said to her,
"The Lord hidden from all, exalted above all,
He has sent me to you and told me, O Holy Virgin,
that you shall conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit".

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord in His place....p.11

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed....p.11

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia ...p.13

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens.. P.16

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Christ who sent Your peace to the Blessed One through the Wakeful One.

Make Your peace dwell in Your Churches,
and deliver them from the scandal of disunity.

God called Gabriel from the secret place of the Wakeful Ones,
and from on high He spoke these words to the Fiery One, "My Son
wills to descend on earth, so prepare a palace for Him with Mary,
the Daughter of David, and remember this on your journey.
Greet her with peace, that seeing you she may not be afraid.
Let peace be on your lips that she may be comforted by you."

"Tell her that the Son of God is to come forth from her womb.
Wear a white veil on your head that she may have no fear.
Do not strike her with dumbness like Zechariah.
Speak to her tenderly and make your announcement gently.
When she asks how this will be, answer with sweetness.
'The Holy Spirit will come and God's power will rest on you".

The Fiery One received the message and flew swiftly to Mary.
"Peace be with you, Daughter of David," he said,
"The Lord is with you, blessed among women.
You shall receive a wonderful conception
and bring forth the Savior of the Creation".
As she received this announcement from the Fiery One,
The Great Power from on high descended and rested in her womb.

Glory to the Exalted One who humbled Himself for the sake of the race
of the earthly ones, to raise us from our fall,
from the dunghill of our affliction. To Him be glory,
and to His Father our adorations and to the Holy Spirit
our shouts of joy.
And on us graciousness and compassion, at all times. Amen . Amen.

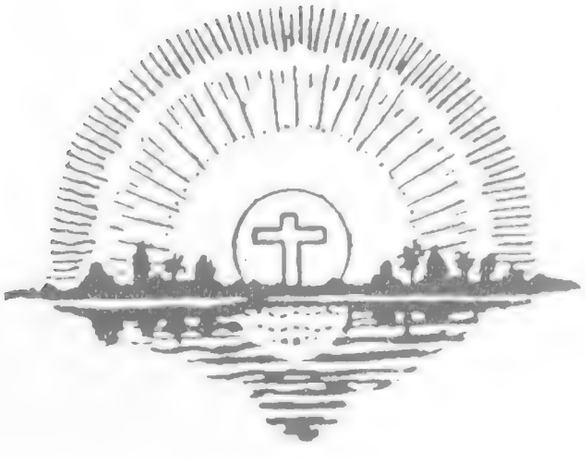
Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.26

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...P.8

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



NOTES TO THE INTRODUCTION

1 Mt 8:17

2 P. 19

3 P. 103

4 *Penqito*. Second Saturday, at the Evening Prayer, used in our translation on the Fifth Saturday, p. 294.

5 P. 29

6 P.36

7 As regret for the omission of the Morning Prayer in the second volume of *Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit* was conveyed to us in a very responsible and enlightened review, we may be allowed in give here a word of explanation. And first we must confess that we never nourished the ides of undertaking a full translation of the *Penqitho*. Our translations was made gradually, for the use of our community. From the beginning we said the actual prayers, including the intercessions, in English, but it took ten years before we ventured to use English for the hymns and other parts which are sung. The Evening Service and the Night Vigil have always enjoyed a distinctive place in our life, not so the Morning Prayer. Partly because our daily Eucharistic is celebrated in the morning hour, partly also because the Fourth Watch of the Night Vigil is itself a celebration of the Morning. On the other hand it is well known that the celebration of a Morning Hour has been a controversial question in early monastic circles. Preference was given to the Evening Service and the Night Vigil which concluded on Sundays with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Cassian himself sees in these two hours the main structure of the monastic office.

8	P.4	9	P.68
10	P. 69	11	P. 9
12	P. 61	13	P. 99
14	P. 20-21	15	P. 22-23
16	P. 48	17	P. 335
18	P.338	19	P. 282
20	P. 320	21	P. 364

22 The *Penqitho* Gospel text during the week of the Life-giving Passion is read out of a harmonized Gospel. In this Gospel the text is woven out of the four Gospels so as to have an ongoing text without leaving

out any detail, even any variant. The Gospel according to John, however, often stands by itself, but the Synoptic Gospels lend themselves very well to such a weaving. We do not know of any English edition of the Harmonized Gospel for Holy Week but we hope to publish it in our fifth volume, which will be otherwise a Lectionary, indicating the readings, yet with a word of life from each reading. But the Gospel for Holy Week will be published in full, in their harmonized form.

23	P. 450	24	P. 462
25	P. 468	26	P. 527-29
27	P. 556	28	P. 545
29	P. 545	30	P. 568
31	P. 570	32	P. 574
33	P. 571	34	P. 576-577
35	P. 584	36	P. 592
37	1Co 15:22-28	38	p. 618
39	p. 618-619		

NOTES TO THE PRAYER SERVICES

1 Hymn quoted from S. Brock, The Harp of the Spirit, London 1983, p. 84. This Hymn has been used partly in our second volume of *Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit,* for the feast of St. Ephrem p. 583. Here it is used in full.

2 In the *Penqutho* IV p.821. Much of this Office is our own composition. The Night Vigil in the Pq was taken from the Common of Several Martyrs, Pq I p. 197 and following.

3 This is one of the few psalms of which we make a new translation from the Syriac. At the same time we acknowledge here the inspiration we have drawn for this work from, Mitchell Dahood's translation of the Psalms, in three volumes of the Anchor Bible, Doubleday and Company, Inc. New York 1968.

4 Feast of Saint Joseph. *Penqutho IV* p. 836. Here also we had to upgrade several pieces, especially the Eucharistic Prayers.

5 Consult the New Catholic Encyclopedia, the Catholic University of Washington DC, 1967, Vol. IV, pp. 788-792

GLOSSARY

Guha — Sanskrit word for cave, secret place, the innermost place of the heart where God dwells, deep hidden in the depths.

Sadhana — Sanskrit word for spiritual discipline, the spiritual path followed by a *sadhaka,* spiritual seeker.

El Shaddai — Ancient Semitic name of God by which He was known before the revelation to Moses, common in Genesis but also in the Book of Job, usually translated Almighty, recently restored in some new translations as the Jerusalem Bible. It is interpreted as meaning "The One of the Mountain", mountains being often believed to be the abode of God.

Qurbana — Syriac word in common use for the Eucharistic Liturgy. It means offering to God, and is mentioned in that sense in Mk 7:11 set apart for God.

Sheol — Semitic word for the underworld, in Greek and hence in English, *Hades,* believed to be the place of darkness, of no-life, but also conceived of as a power ruling tyrannically over the dead.

Here is the fruit of 25 years of prayer experience at Kurisumala... The criteria adopted in the selection of texts indicate a deep familiarity with this liturgy and a clear vision of what suits the Indian reality....The author brings out very well the qualities of the Syrian culture, its adaptability and expansion, its influence on the Christian, both Byzantine and Latin hymnody. He deserves special praise for his sincere and successful effort at adopting what is authentically Asiatic, rejecting the importation of wholesale Western patterns of Christian prayer and worship ... Here is a book of prayer mediation, and for theology. It is a testimony of a live Christian tradition inspired by biblical words an by natural symbols and expressed with vivid images and solid piety...*Prof. Butros Yousif, Orientalia Christiana Periodica, Rome.*

The two volumes previously published have received complimentary reviews in Indian religious journals, even non- Christian. The monastic prayer of Kurisumala could perhaps serve as inspiration for a deepening of the parish liturgy of post-Vatican Catholic India, where a movement towards delatinization is highly desirable. It could also have a favorable influence among the Orthodox Syrians and the Reformed Mar Thoma Church. The Syro-Malankara Ashram has, in any event shown, great ecumenical openness, in a region where the relations between the separated Churches are not always easy...A great number of admirable texts drawn from the ancient common tradition of these Churches are translated here for the first time, adapting them to the prayer of today's Church with a freedom which succeeds in perpetuating the past... *Prof. A. de Halleux, Nouvelle Revue Theologique de Louvain.*